

Record

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

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Rankin: records indicate God is at work

RICHMOND, Va. (BP) — Chart-busting missionary appointments, record missions offerings, and all-time-high numbers of new churches and preaching points overseas are God's work, not the International Mission Board's (IMB), IMB President Jerry Rankin told a chapel audience Jan. 7 at the board's Richmond, Va., headquarters.

In fact, Southern Baptists must beware of spiritual pride and capture God's heart for the world's lost billions if they want God to use them to their full potential, he said.

Southern Baptists sent 885 new missionaries overseas in 1998 — a 33.4% increase over 1997. The Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for international missions passed \$100 million in 1997.

Gifts through the Southern Baptist Convention's (SBC) unified giving plan, the Cooperative Program, continue to surge.

In 1998, Southern Baptist missionaries and their overseas partners reported 4,223 new churches and 31,567 preaching points — increases of 25.4% and 41.7% respectively.

"We must not take pride in what we are doing but realize we are taking part in what God

is doing," Rankin told the assembly. "God has simply given us the privilege of helping him finish the unfinished task: evangelizing a lost world."

"If we ever lose our burden for a world in darkness, we have lost the motivation that will bring glory to God in our service."

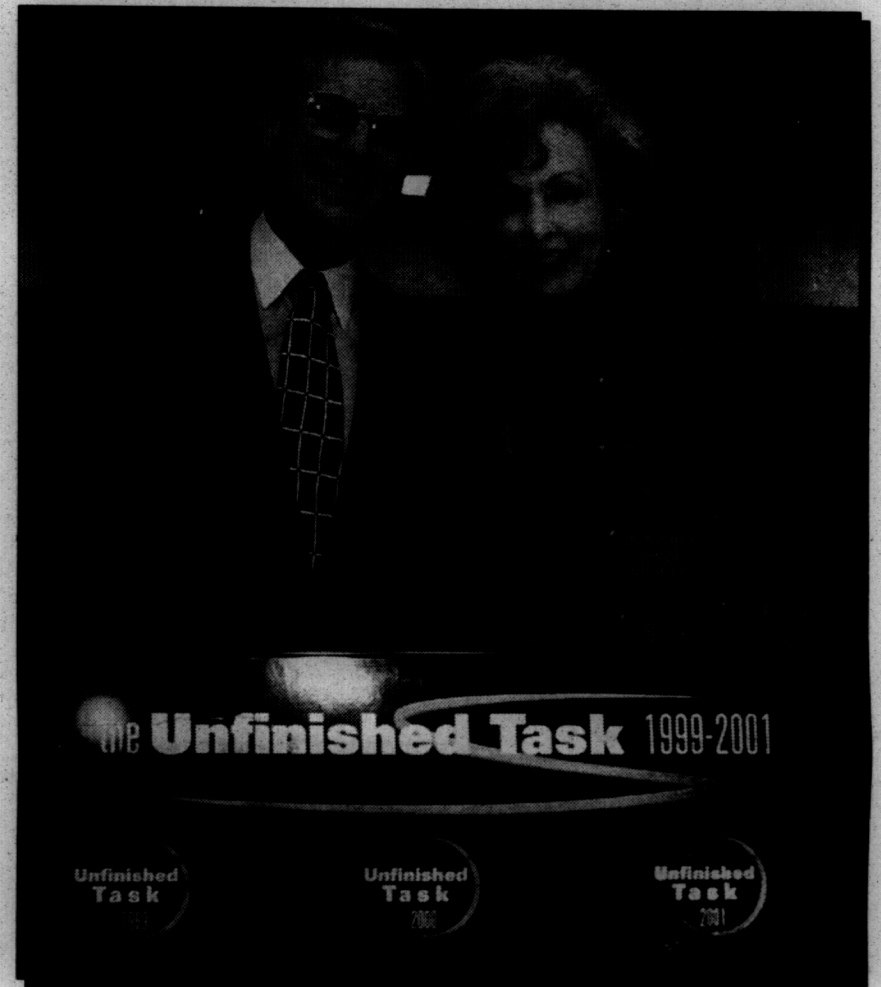
During the chapel service, Rankin unveiled a new three-year emphasis on "the Unfinished Task," which will be the overall theme for both the International Mission Study and the Week of Prayer for International Missions.

The 1999 emphasis, "Loving the Lost," challenges Southern Baptists to capture God's burden for more than 2,000 ethnic people groups around the world with virtually no chance to hear the gospel.

The two subsequent years will center around the themes of "Dispelling the Darkness" and "Planting with Passion."

The SBC Executive Committee recently agreed to merge the annual International Mission Study with the Week of Prayer for International Missions and the annual Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for International Missions.

The 1999 Week of Prayer is set for Nov. 28-Dec. 5.



NEW FOCUS — International Mission Board President Jerry Rankin (left) and his wife Bobbye, both Mississippi natives, pose with the logo for the board's 1999 emphasis: "The Unfinished Task: Loving the Lost." The theme and logo were introduced in a Jan. 7 chapel service at the board's Richmond, Va., headquarters. (BP photo)

A large banner draped across the front of the chapel proclaimed the theme, while board staff members cut cakes decorated with the new logo.

The celebration reflected a renewed IMB commitment to doing "Whatever It Takes" to take the gospel to every last ethnic people group in the world.

"One day the task will be finished," Rankin said. "Jesus said the gospel will be preached in all the world as a witness to every nation."

"I don't know when that will be, but we must keep pushing forward. We must not stop short of all God has for us to experience."

NYC wins key anti-porn ruling

NEW YORK (BP) — New York Mayor Rudolph Giuliani's battle against smut won a key legal battle Jan. 11 when the U.S. Supreme Court refused to hear an appeal from sex shop owners and the New York Civil Liberties Union.

The Supreme Court's action upheld a 1998 state supreme court ruling affirming the constitutionality of New York City's anti-pornography zoning law.

The city's zoning measure prohibits "adult-use establishments" from operating within 500 feet of a residential district, in an effort to force adult theaters, strip shops, X-rated video stores, and other smut businesses to out-of-the-way industrial zones. It was passed by the City Planning Commission in 1995 as part of various Giuliani "quality of life" initiatives for the city.

The U.S. Supreme Court ruling, which sets no national precedent, was issued without comment by any of the justices, but USA Today noted Jan. 12 "supporters say it could embolden other cities to use zoning to combat adult businesses. Dallas, Houston, and Los Angeles already have used this approach."

Dennis Saffran, executive director of the Center for the Community Interest in New York City, which helps cities pass such measures, told the paper, "As with a lot of things, people look to New York City as a bellwether."

The center's telephone number is (212) 689-6080; Internet site, www.communityinterest.org. Another organization which helps communities battle pornography is the National Coalition for the Protection of Children & Families (formerly the National Coalition Against Pornography) in Cincinnati. Its telephone number is 1-800-557-6227 or (513) 521-6227; Internet site, www.nationalcoalition.org.

WHAT'S IN THE RECORD

Lights out at Evang. Conf.

3

More bills for Legislature

4

Evang. Conf. highlights

5

'Secret sin' examined

6

Looking back

10 years ago

"Go Forward," a 31-minute video produced by the national Women's Missionary Union (WMU), receives top honors at the Deep South Video Festival sponsored by the International Television Association. The video is based on the life of Annie Armstrong, WMU's first paid director.

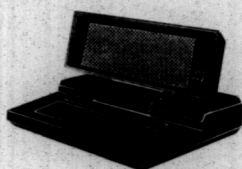
20 years ago

Hebron Church, Yazoo City, holds a note-burning service to celebrate paying off the debt on their new sanctuary. The church was able to pay off the note in a little over three years, according to pastor Bill Hutto.

50 years ago

Roy L. Honeycutt Jr., currently a student at Mississippi College in Clinton, is ordained to the ministry at First Church, Grenada. He is the pastor of Scobey Church, Yalobusha County, and is married to the former June Williams, also a student at Mississippi College.

EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK



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How to make a difference

American Family Association president Donald E. Wildmon recently wrote about "the letter which broke my heart. The person had written these words: 'Please remove me from your mailing list. I have quit caring.'"

Is it so difficult to understand how a person could reach such an unfortunate conclusion?

♦ In Washington, D.C., grown men and women quibble over the meaning of "is," while six-year old children across the country ask, "Mommy, what's oral sex?"

♦ In Nevada, a pawn shop owner displays his unusual collection — a large jar full of gold-filled teeth that people have torn from their mouths before his eyes, in order to get cash and return to the casinos.

♦ In Mississippi, a radical Muslim cleric who advocates racial superiority is invited to speak at a Christian church, then ceremoniously honored by city leaders.

The bad news is those four little items barely scratch the surface of modern American "culture" (term used loosely). It's enough to make a Christian want to give up, to quit caring, isn't it?

That's not the way of the Christian, however. Of the many attributes of Christ — the person after whom we have committed to pattern our lives — one of the most prominent has to be his persistence in the face of cultural pressure and overwhelming opposition.

He was one person, a common laborer and member of a downtrodden race, in an oppressed backwater far from the seats of political power and social influence.

He didn't have walls covered with fancy diplomas and meaningless awards. As a matter of fact, he didn't even have any walls.

He owned virtually nothing. He was scorned and discredited by his own people. Yet, he set out to change the world, and he did just that.

Almost 2,000 years later, we still date each day by a calendar that marks his existence. We pray to the Father in his name, and we

point our precious children toward him.

Towering edifices and small huts — gathering places for his followers — continue to be built in his name all around the world, all this time later.

With Jesus as our model, how could we ever conceive of quitting, of giving up, of not caring any longer?

It's well past time for us to stop griping about the low esteem in which our culture holds us. It's well past time for us to start making a difference.

Take for example Senate Bill (SB) 2276, swiftly introduced after the convening of the 1999 session of the Mississippi Legislature in early January.

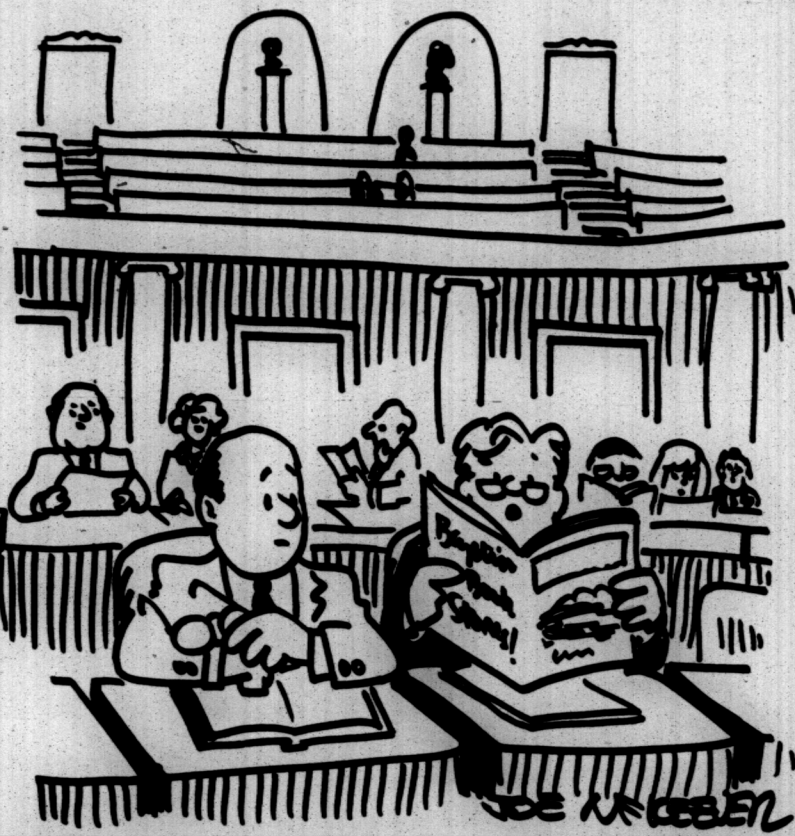
SB 2276 proposed to legalize the training of casino employees at Mississippi's community colleges and universities. Legislative supporters claimed the bill was about training Mississippians for high-paying casino management jobs.

However, a detailed examination by staffers of the Mississippi Baptist Christian Action Commission (CAC) revealed that job training allowed under the bill included such lofty careers as "boxmen, Keno runners, pit bosses, and shells."

Webster's New World Dictionary defines a shell as, "the confederate of a gambler... who pretends to buy, bet, or bid so as to lure onlookers into participating."

Do you really want the state's colleges and universities pitching the fine art of shilling as a career to Mississippi's stu-

"I ASKED FOR THE CONGRESSIONAL QUARTERLY — AND THEY BROUGHT ME THE SUNDAY SCHOOL QUARTERLY!"



dents? CAC staffers didn't think so, either.

When legislators found out CAC was preparing to alert Baptists around the state about the flaws of SB 2276, the proposal died a quiet death on a committee docket.

The moral of the story is that together we can make a difference, but equally important is the fact the you can make a difference as an individual and as part of a team, too.

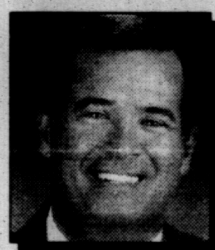
Just don't give up. Don't quit caring. Withdrawing from our responsibilities today can only contribute to a tragic future.

That's a concept Jesus apparently understood well. Why else would he have those nail scars in his hands?

PRESIDENT'S JOURNAL:

On being a witness

By Dean Register, president
Mississippi Baptist Convention



Each year, the Mississippi Baptist Evangelism Conference challenges me to be a better witness!

Sonny Adkins, director of evangelism for the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board (MBCB), and the Evangelism Department staff put together an outstanding program for the 1999 conference Jan. 18-19 at Crossgates Church, Brandon — anointed messages from state and national leaders including our MBCB executive director Jim Futral; Bob Reccord, president of North American Mission Board; and Jarvis Ward of Mission America in Pearl.

At the core of all we do in our state convention and in our local churches lies the priority of evangelism. God designed the church to be an evangelistic fellowship, so believers can serve as conduits of the Gospel instead of reservoirs of religion.

I don't know when I first tried to explain my love for Christ. I do remember the adolescent burden that started to weigh upon my soul. It felt like an obligation I couldn't avoid, and sometimes like a necessary chore.

Awkwardly, I stammered through my testimony like a school kid under pressure to tell all he knows.

Often I felt the surging blush of embarrassment. The burden usually seemed bigger than the blessing.

Would I always feel deficient? Why couldn't I be more effective? The early questions came without textbook answers.

Slowly I learned that having a way with words was less important than having a walk with the Word. Knowing Christ deeper fueled a stronger passion in my heart.

Through many witnessing encounters, I found a fresh fire growing. The joy of sharing his

love became contagious. I wanted to tell everybody about Jesus. I still do.

Despite my weakness, my heart's greatest desire is to usher others into his saving grace. My greatest regret is that I have too often neglected opportunities he provided.

Billy Graham still wonders about one of his neglected opportunities.

It was 1963 and John F. Kennedy was president. Graham had just finished speaking at the National Prayer Breakfast in Washington, D.C., and the President asked, "Billy, could you ride back to The White House with me? I'd like to see you for a minute."

"Mr. President, I've got a

fever," I protested. "Not only am I weak, but I don't want to give you this thing. Couldn't we wait and talk some other time?"

"It was a cold, snowy day, and I was freezing as I stood there without my overcoat. Of course," (the president) said gracefully, "Graham recalled.

The two men would never meet again. President Kennedy was assassinated in Dallas in November of that year.

Graham commented, "His hesitation at the car door, and his request, haunt me still. What was on his mind? Should I have gone with him? It was an irrecoverable moment."

Opportunities come to pass, not to stay. The impact of a simple, humble witness from your heart might make a difference that affects an entire nation.

You don't have to be Billy Graham. You just have to be yourself and depend upon God's empowering presence.

Now more than ever, America needs the Good News about Jesus.

Register is pastor of Temple Church, Hattiesburg.

1,000 volunteers partner for Super Bowl witness

MIAMI (BP) — The North American Mission Board (NAMB) and about 1,000 Southern Baptists are taking the message of Jesus Christ to the Super Bowl.

NAMB, the Florida Baptist Convention, Gulf Stream Baptist Association, and Miami Baptist Association are partnering under the banner "Southern Baptists of South Florida" to serve as one of the official sponsors of the 1999 South Florida Super Bowl XXXIII Host Committee.

"It is an extraordinary partnership between NAMB, the local associations, and the state convention," says Tim Knopps, an evangelism events associate for NAMB. "Through it, Southern Baptists will meet people they will not be able to meet anywhere else. It is a great opportunity to serve others and to share Christ."

The partnership calls for Southern Baptists to provide at least 300 volunteers to the host committee. The volunteers, mostly from the Miami and Fort Lauderdale metro areas, will work with visitors during one four-hour shift each to a wide variety of Super Bowl-related attractions.

For the remainder of the time the volunteers will be involved with other Southern Baptists in a variety of evangelistic activities throughout the area. At least 12 churches will share Christ through community block parties, and about 100 churches will hold Super Bowl watch parties — most using the Super Bowl Half-Time Kit evangelistic video and party package. Members of the North American Mission Board's Inner City Evangelism team also will be a part of the effort.

NAMB and south Florida

Baptists partnered with Sports Spectrum, a national Christian sports magazine, to purchase 125,000 special Super Bowl issues specially crafted for south Florida. The magazine includes a clear gospel presentation from former Miami Dolphin and 1998 NFL Hall of Fame inductee Dwight Stephenson, who will be on hand to encourage Southern Baptist workers at block party training Jan. 21. The magazine also includes an offer of a free "Jesus" video to any reader who returns an enclosed card.

Sports Spectrum will be distributed from at least 40 official host committee kiosks throughout the area, including three major airports in south Florida and most of the major hotels.

Toby Frost, manager of event evangelism for the North American Mission Board, said the Super Bowl effort is a good

example of what he calls the ABCs of event evangelism — a means of Attracting lost people, a Bridge to create a relational common ground, and a resulting opportunity to Communicate the Gospel.

"The Super Bowl in that sense, then, is really incidental to what we're doing," he said.

"Sports is the language of many segments of our society, and if we can use that language just like we use other languages, we can more effectively share the gospel with people that share that language," Frost explained.



THE SECOND FRONT PAGE

THE BAPTIST Record

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'99 Evang. Conf. utilizes special 'power'

By Carl M. White
Associate Editor

The electrical power was out for nearly three hours during the Jan. 19 evening session of the 1999 Mississippi Baptist Evangelism Conference at Crossgates Church, Brandon — but that didn't prevent the proclaiming of the power of Jesus Christ.

"The Evangelism Conference was 'lights out' in regards to other years," said S. A. "Sonny" Adkins, director of the Evangelism Department for the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board (MBCB), "but Jim Futral, Bob Reccord, and the Mississippi Singing Churchmen shared the light of the world — Jesus Christ."

Both Futral, MBCB executive director-treasurer, and Reccord, president of the Southern Baptist North American Mission Board in Atlanta, spoke in the dark on Tuesday evening.

The Mississippi Singing Churchmen, composed of ministers of music and other staff persons from Mississippi Baptist churches, led the worship by candlelight.

Featured speaker William Fay, an evangelist from Englewood, Colo., who is the author of the book and video series, *Share Jesus without Fear*, warned during the Jan. 18 evening session of a "collective deadness surrounded by activity" in most churches today.

"Who of you is sharing the Gospel?" he asked the crowd.

Challenging believers to be active witnesses for Christ, Fay said, "Every single time you open your mouth in the power of the Gospel, the potential is there for life-altering change."

Under the theme of *Celebrate Jesus 2000* (CJ2000), Adkins said the purpose of the conference this year was to provide motivation and practical insights for doing evangelism in the local church.

"CJ 2000 is the vehicle on which every Mississippi Baptist will pray for and witness to, every family in our state," Adkins said.

Dramatist and evangelist Jim McNeil of St. Louis, Mo., demonstrated over the course of two conference sessions the use of drama and the memorization of Scripture to win people to Christ.

Dressed in period costume as the Apostle Paul, McNeil quoted the entire letter of 2 Timothy in a dramatic monologue.

Bobby Welch, pastor of First Church, Daytona Beach, Fla. and creator of the FAITH evangelism curriculum, said during the Jan. 19 afternoon session that while the Lord was not willing that any should perish, "our churches are full of closet universalists who believe it will all work out in the end."

"If people won't witness, it's because they are doing nothing more than what they see modeled."

Thad Hamilton, evangelism specialist for the Baptist Convention of Georgia in Atlanta, spoke from John 4 during the Jan. 18 afternoon session. He reminded participants that the Bible is a book on evangelism.

"Don't jettison the method," he said. "Just apply it a little bit differently."

Bob Pittman, pastor of Kirby Woods Church in Memphis, asked if people are hearing the death rattle in our Southern Baptist Zion.

As an example, he pointed to his own association in Memphis. With 125 churches, it is the fifth largest association in the Southern Baptist Convention.

"Of 125 churches, only seven are running more in average attendance today than 10 years ago; 12 are running the same; and 106 are running less than they did 10 years ago."

"Memphis is a mushrooming city with new homes, malls, and stores going up. It is thriving, growing — yet most of the churches are dying."

Speaking from Rev. 3, Pittman asked: If a church is dead, then who killed it?

"Jesus," he answered. "He is the Alpha and the Omega. He put to death every church that has ever died. Only he can kill a church. Why does he do it?"

Pittman pointed to three reasons:

- ◆ Some churches live in glories of the past.
- ◆ Other churches have activities, but do not advance the Kingdom of God.
- ◆ In many churches, people have "defiled their garments."

"Who would have ever thought that we would debate whether or not to ordain a homosexual?" Pittman asked.

"How does Jesus kill a church? Not by fire or with wind. He withdraws his Spirit. Sing and preach all you want, but all is vain unless the Spirit of the Lord comes down," Pittman asserted.

The 2000 Mississippi Baptist Evangelism Conference will be held Monday, Jan. 17, at Ridgcrest Church, Madison.

The evening will conclude with a mass choir and orchestra performing the musical, *God With Us*, at the Mississippi Coliseum in Jackson.

For more information, contact Adkins at the MBCB Evangelism Department, P. O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Telephone (601) 968-3800 or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651.

MBCB director of communications Tim Nicholas contributed to this article.

For pictorial highlights of the 1999 Mississippi Baptist Evangelism Conference, please turn to page five of this issue.



CARRYING THE LIGHT — Candles illuminate the sanctuary pulpit behind Mississippi Baptist Convention Board executive director-treasurer Jim Futral as he preaches by flashlight during the Jan. 19 evening session of the 1999 Mississippi Baptist Evangelism Conference at Crossgates Church, Brandon. A malfunctioning electrical transformer knocked out power for several hours across a wide swath of Brandon, but it didn't alter the conference schedule. (Photo by William H. Perkins Jr.)

Proposals continue to fill legislative hopper

By Paul G. Jones II, CAC executive director
and Elizabeth K. Holmes, CAC consultant

The 1999 session of the Mississippi Legislature has completed three weeks of its twelve-week session at the State Capitol in Jackson, marking the first major deadline on January 18 for filing regular bills and constitutional amendments.



State Capitol, Jackson

Those items must be acted upon as passed out of committee by February 2, and for that reason there is a great deal of urgency in contacting legislators regarding desired action on a piece of legislation.

Many good pieces of legislation will die on calendar deadline because legislators have not heard from their constituents, and bad legislation often passes because there appears to be no opposition "back home."

A call or letter now may make the difference in a bill passing or failing.

Due to space limitations, bills listed in previous weeks will not be repeated.

ABORTION

SB 2677 creates the "Protection from High Risk and Coercive Abortion Act." This is an excellent bill to protect the unborn and prevent women from being pressured into an unwanted abortion. CAC recommendation: Support.

SCR 529 is a proposed constitutional amendment that will set aside a very bad decision of the Mississippi Supreme Court.

In 1998 the Mississippi Supreme Court concluded that the constitution of the state implicitly provides for the right of abortion. SCR 529 would amend the constitution to

provide that the right of due process begins, or vests, at fertilization and thus provide a clear constitutional pro-life statement. CAC recommendation: Strongly support.

ALCOHOL AND OTHER DRUGS INCLUDING TOBACCO

HB 519 and **SB 3018** create the "Health Care Trust Fund" for tobacco settlement funds. CAC recommendation: Support

HB 919 and **SB 2600** permit alcoholic beverage retailers to cash checks with or without a fee. The CAC opposes the idea that a check could be cashed at a liquor store. CAC recommendation: Oppose.

HB 1057 and **SB 2721** decrease the blood alcohol content required for legal intoxication to .08 percent. CAC recommendation: Support.

SB 2827 prohibits open containers of alcohol in the passenger compartment of a motor vehicle on a public road, highway, or highway right-of-way. CAC recommendation: Support.

CHILDREN

HB 715 requires bingo operators and casinos to verify if winners have outstanding child support judgments against them. CAC recommendation: Support.

HB 976 increases eligibility for the "Child Health Care Program" to 200% of poverty level. CAC recommendation: Support.

SB 2653 permits a feasibility study to determine the need for a Department of Children and Family Programs. CAC recommendation: Support.

CHURCHES

HB 293 exempts all churches and religious associations who are exempt under 501(c)(3) of the IRS code from paying sales tax on the purchase of tangible personal property and services. CAC recommendation: Strongly support.

HB 670 phases out the sales tax charged to churches. It would do basically the same as HB 293 except over several years. This bill is acceptable. CAC recommendation: Support.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE

HB 918 doubles the penalties for indecent exposure to a child under the age of 18. CAC recommendation: Support.

SB 2522 requires proof that the perpetrator of a rape of a child under age 14 knew the child was under age 14 and that the rape was willful. This is an absurd piece of legislation that protects the rapist and not the child. CAC recommendation: Strongly oppose.

FAMILY

SB 2221 makes illegal a mother's use of illicit drugs while pregnant and makes it manslaughter if the child dies from the mother's drug abuse. CAC recommendation: Support.

GAMBLING

HB 891 exempts certain veterans organizations from the Charitable Bingo Law. This bad piece of legislation gives certain groups preferential treatment and would permit a return to bad bingo such as existed prior to the Charitable Bingo Act. CAC recommendation: Strongly oppose.

Persons desiring to contact their state legislators about specific bills and resolutions may do so by calling them at the Capitol at (601) 359-3770 or by writing them at P. O. Box 1018, Jackson, MS 39215-1018.

The Mississippi Baptist Christian Action Commission can provide additional information and can be contacted by calling toll-free (800) 748-1651 or toll (601) 292-3329, or by FAX at (601) 292-3350. Mailing address is P. O. Box 530, Jackson MS 39205-0530, or send e-mail to: action@misnet.com.

100 English teachers sought for China work

RICHMOND, Va. (BP) —

One hundred volunteers are needed to teach English to middle-school instructors in China this summer through a program co-sponsored by the Southern Baptist International Mission Board and the English-as-a-Second Language organization.

The program will give participants opportunities to touch the lives of many young Chinese educators and share their Christian faith and testimony.

The eight-week project will begin June 25 and conclude Aug. 19. Teaching experience is highly valued but not required. Participants will be assigned to teams of about eight and will serve in strategic locations throughout China.

People interested in joining the project may call the International Mission Board at (800) 999-3113, and press 8 to leave contact information.

UNCLE! UNCLE!

It was just a kid's game. We would wrestle until someone got a headlock or an arm-twist, creating enough pressure and pain that the other person would have to holler "Uncle!" — meaning, "I've had all I can take, please let me go!"

I'm almost ready to holler "Uncle."

It was just over one year ago that Monica Lewinsky came on the national scene. Soon after the Monica revelation, the nation was confronted with a stern, forthright, angry, rather forceful president saying to the five billion people on the earth, "Listen to me, I did not..." and we listened to him.

In time there was one more leak, one more piece of the puzzle, one more admission until finally we heard, "I had an inappropriate relationship..."

The country was amazingly pleased that with the admission came the determination of getting back to the country's business. Still, there were others who thought something ought to be done and for almost a year they have tried, all to no avail.

I have had enough pain and been twisted enough ways that



Directions

Jim Futral, executive director-treasurer
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board

maybe it's time to say "Uncle!" I don't want to, but mentally, emotionally, socially, politically, spiritually, and at times even physically, I have had enough!

♦ **My ears hurt**, after a year of accusations and definitions and stories about tapes, pizzas, cigars, ties, gifts, secretaries, hallways, rendezvous, the president, and a kid intern.

♦ **My eyes hurt**, after months of watching a split-screen president, half of him being revealed in ways that are anything but moral in situations that totally lack integrity, and on the other side of the screen watching him gallivant across the country offering people hope and speaking on family values.

♦ **My tongue is tired**, because hardly a day passes that

is not filled with multiple questions that cannot be answered — but everyone is taking a guess. "What do you think will happen? Will he resign? Will they throw him out?"

♦ **My nose is tired**. Obviously, sniffing out the truth has become impossible — he said/they said/she said this or that happened.

While I am almost ready to cry "Uncle!" the only part of me that seems to still be working is my heart. **I cannot help but feel sorry** for a teenage girl who doesn't call Bill Clinton "Mr. President," but "Daddy."

I know that it must be unendingly painful to hear the repeated allegations of your husband's infidelities and realize that's the way he is.

My heart breaks for the

young people of our country who may grow up thinking that morality doesn't make any difference.

If that lesson is being received by the youth of our country, they are being deceived.

My heart hurts but I'm grateful it is still working.

I feel for Christian folks who are confused about the kind of Christianity lived out at the highest stage of government.

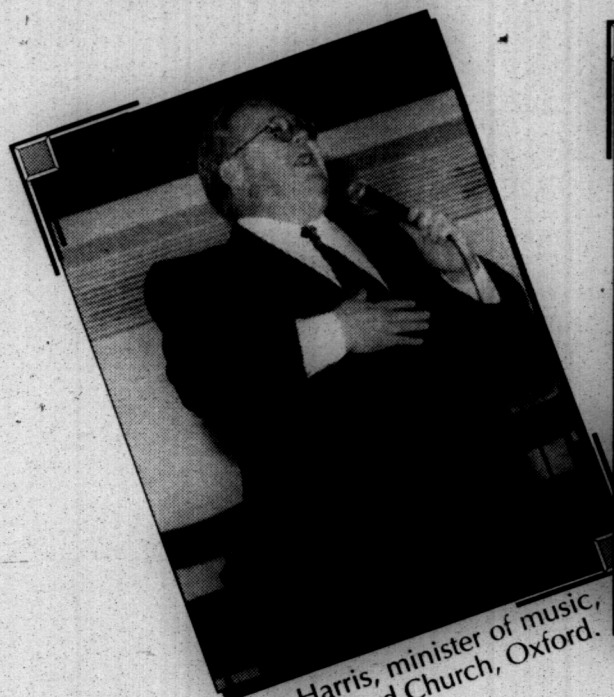
I feel for lost people as they rightly evaluate their own ethical standards as higher than this Baptist president's.

While almost everything about me wants to cry "Uncle!" my heart says: *Be not weary in well-doing, for we shall reap if we faint not.* (Gal. 6:9)

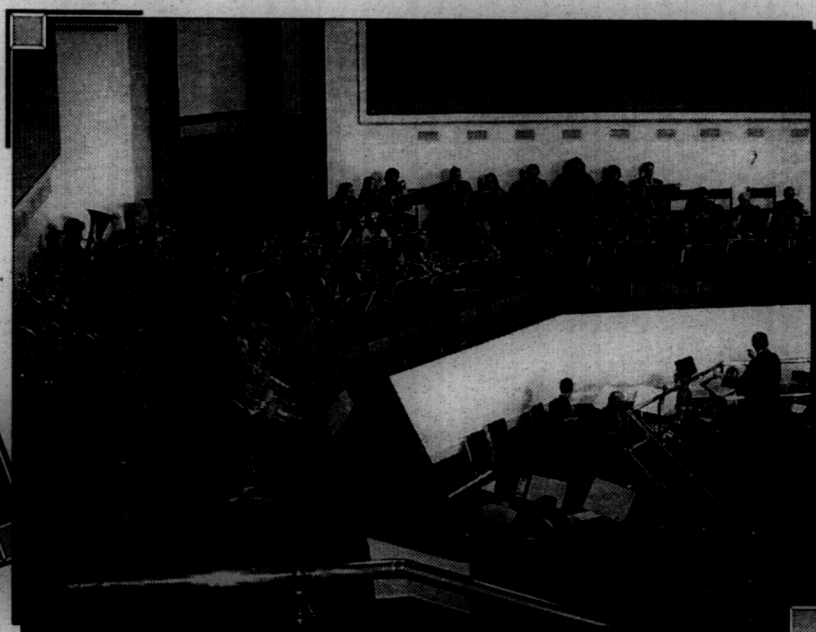
Dear Lord, help us! In a world of confusion and uncertainty, help us to capture the moment for Christ, to be delivered from just wanting to straighten out the president, and to turn to allowing you to work in us.

Lord, help us that we might learn that in the worst of times, in the darkest of days, we might not just say "Uncle!" but rather, "Father!"

Highlights of '99 Miss. Baptist Evangelism Conference



Allen Harris, minister of music,
North Oxford Church, Oxford.



Mississippi Baptist Symphony Orchestra



Dramatist/evangelist Jim McNeil of St.
Louis, Mo.

*Photos by Carl M. White
and Tim Nicholas*



John Wells, minister of music, First Church,
Florence.



Conference of Mississippi Baptist Evangelists officers for
1999 include (from left) Tim Posey, Brookhaven,
secretary/treasurer; Ronnie Cottingham, Lucedale, president;
Chester Estes Jr., Union, vice-president; Mike Pennock, West
McComb Church, pastor advisor.



William Fay, evangelist, Hope Ministries,
Englewood, Co.



Canton residents Gene Fant (left) and wife Mona Faith (center), music evangelist,
talk with Thad Hamilton, evangelism specialist with the Baptist Convention of
Georgia in Atlanta.



Bart Terry (left), associate pastor of Highland Church, Laurel, accepts
a certificate from S.A. "Sonny" Adkins, MBCB evangelism director, in
recognition for leading the state in 1998 baptisms with a total of 557
people baptized. Dennis W. Sewell is Highland Church pastor.

Pornography users struggle with 'secret sin'

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — About a dozen years ago, John Wolf's wife gave him an ultimatum — choose his pornography or his family.

"The decision was easy for me. I chose my family — but the answer was not so easy to live," Wolf wrote in an article appearing in the Winter 1998-99 issue of Life & Work Directions, a Bible study for young adults published by LifeWay Christian Resources in Nashville.

A 40-year-old businessman, father of two and member of Heritage Church in Oklahoma City, Wolf shared his struggle with pornography in a first-person article, "How to Live

A Porn-Free Life."

The story was linked to the Jan. 10 Sunday School lesson on "Rejecting Pornography," which appeared in Life & Work mem-

ber books in all adult age groups, from young adults to seniors.

Wolf's struggle with pornography began at age 10 when he found a "girlie magazine" his dad had thrown away.

By age 14, he and a friend had lined the inside of their fort with their favorite pornographic pictures. His teenage years were marked by frequent trips to R-rated movies, and by early adulthood he was purchasing porn magazines and visiting strip clubs and adult bookstores.

Wolf accepted Christ at age 14 but drifted away from his commitment after his college days. He married at age 25, and after the birth of his first son, he and his wife felt the need to return to church.

"Everything in my life looked great on the outside. I was the president of our third-generation family business. Our church involvement grew over the next few years. My wife and I were the perfect picture of a young married couple."

Pictures can be deceiving. Wolf was living a dual lifestyle. He knew his addiction to

pornography was wrong. Over and over he promised, "This will never happen again." Over and over he broke that promise.

"Sin takes you further than you planned to go, keeps you longer than you planned to stay and costs you more than you plan to pay," Wolf said. "Fortunately, God's love for me is stronger than my stupidity. His patience is more powerful than my pornography habit."

Wolf said studies show that, conservatively speaking, two out of 10 men look at pornography. "My experience has been that pornography is one of the biggest secret sins of the church."

For some, pornography quickly moves from fascination to addiction. Studies by Victor Cline, a researcher at the University of Utah, show a four-step progression among men who become hooked on porn:

◆ **Exposure.** Once exposed to pornographic materials, they get hooked and keep coming back for more.

◆ **Escalation.** There is a need for harder, more shocking material to get the same sexual stimulation.

◆ **Desensitization.** What was once shocking becomes, in time, acceptable and commonplace.

◆ **Acting out.** There is an

increased tendency to act out the sexual activities in the porn viewed, usually victimizing women and children.

For Wolf, the turning point was his wife's discovery of his pornography habit and his growing realization he couldn't kick the addiction on his own. Disappointed and sad he had hurt his wife and family, he was finally able to address his problem openly and honestly.

In the last portion of his article, he shared advice for how to live a porn-free life in these "four steps to freedom:"

◆ **Counseling.** A good, biblical counselor can help the addict and the addict's strained relationships produced by pornography.

◆ **Accountability.** Find another individual with whom you can share your struggles.

◆ **Maintenance.** Avoid tempting situations. You can do numerous things in your life to resist moral failure. Change the route you use to go home. Turn off the television. Unplug the computer or only use it when someone is in the room with you.

◆ **God.** Make a time for God every day. Twenty minutes praying, reading and memorizing Scripture will make a big difference in life.

Resources are available to help in fight against pornography

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — The Winter 1998-99 Life & Work Bible study member books for adults included the following list of resources which can help in the fight against pornography:

◆ "Four Steps to Freedom," a booklet by John Wolf, a member of Heritage Church in Oklahoma City, Okla., and a member of the board of directors for Oklahomans for Children and Families.

Wolf also has computer software available to help track Internet activity for parents or spouses and is available for speaking engagements on the following topics: "Dangers of the Internet with Guidelines for Safe Surfing" and "The Price, the Pain and the Perils of Pornography." Telephone: (405) 239-6245; email, johnw@wolfmailing.com.

◆ American Family Association, P.O. Drawer 2440, Tupelo, MS 38803; (601) 844-5036; www.afa.net.

◆ National Coalition for the Protection of Children & Families, 800 Compton Road, Suite 9224, Cincinnati, OH 45231; (513) 521-6227; www.nationalcoalition.org.

◆ Enough is Enough, P.O. Box 888, Fairfax, VA 22030; (703) 278-8343; www.enough.org.

◆ National Campaign to Combat Internet Pornography, 10443 N. May, Suite 605, Oklahoma City, OK 73120; www.nccip.org.

◆ "Porn in America" by James Lambert (Huntington House Publishers: Lafayette, Louisiana, 1997).

◆ "An Affair of the Mind" by Laurie Hall (Focus on the Family Publishing: Colorado Springs, Colorado, 1996).

◆ "Fatal Addiction: Pornography and Sexual Violence," Focus on the Family Ministries, Colorado Springs, CO 80995; (719) 531-5181, www.family.org.

◆ Materials from the SBC Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission, 901 Commerce Street, Suite 550, Nashville, TN 37203; (615) 244-2495, www.ericl.com.

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BOSTON & NEW YORK June 1-6 • Shows & sightseeing in New York, Longfellow's Wayside Inn, Cape Cod Cruise, Mystic Seaport • \$1249 inc. airfare	CIRCLE SPAIN & PORTUGAL June 18-27 • \$1699 Super value	BEST of BRITISH ISLES June 1-16 • IRELAND, WALES, SCOTLAND, ENGLAND First class
CALIFORNIA 49er STATE June 17-25 • San Diego, Hollywood, Giant Redwoods, Yosemite, Lake Tahoe, Reno, San Francisco • \$1249 with extras already included	IRISH EYES ARE SMILING July 14-23 • All over Ireland • Never again for \$1895	GRAND EUROPEAN HOLIDAY July 6-22 • 17 days & more of Europe - Almost full
PACIFIC NORTHWEST & CANADIAN ROCKIES July 6-18 • BANFF, LAKE LOUISE, Mt. Shasta, Oregon, Washington, Glacier Park, more • \$1499 Complete	CHINA CLASSIC August 12-21 • One time offer for \$2428	THE OTHER EUROPE Aug. 2-17 • EAST GERMANY, POLAND, SLOVAKIA, HUNGARY, CZECH REPUBLIC First Class
CANADIAN FJORDS CRUISE July 18-30 • 13 days-LARADOR, NEWFOUNDLAND, NOVA SCOTIA, more • From \$1348 • Few spaces open	CRUISE THE NILE Sept. 8-17 • Fly Coach - TRAIN & CRUISE the great river in EGYPT from \$2196	AUSTRALIA & NEW ZEALAND Aug. 18 - Sept. 2 escorted by JIM & JOY YATES, Yazoo City • Fairy Penguin Parade & Great Barrier Reef included
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ALL SIZES
SALES AND RENTALS

What I tell you in the darkness, speak in the light; and what you hear whispered in your ear, proclaim upon the

HOUSE TOPS

Matthew 10:27 NAS

January 28, 1999

HouseTops is a **Baptist Record** supplement produced by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board's **Office of Communication**.

Pray this day for...

January 29 - February 11, 1999

Prayer Ministry Office • P. O. Box 530 • Jackson, MS 39205-0530 • Phone 968-3800, Ext. 3904 • Mississippi PrayerLine 1-800-787-PRAY

Do You Pray?

There is no royal road either to health or learning. All alike must attend to the needs of their own bodies and minds. No person can eat, drink or sleep by proxy. No one can get the alphabet learned for him by another.

So it is with the soul. Each person must confess his sins to God and repent. And must believe in God and pray, for by nobody else can it be done. To be prayerless is to be without God, without Christ, without grace, without hope and without heaven.

The city of Chong-king, China, covers an area slightly larger than South Carolina and has a population of more than 30 million. It has been described as one of the most polluted cities in the world. It is also one of the most unreached cities in the world. Pray that the people of Chong-king will receive new life in Christ Jesus.

Christian Action Commission Sunday (Christian Action Commission Emphasis). Please pray for Paul Jones, Executive Dir.-Treas., as he informs Christians about important legislative bills and urges us to contact our state senators and representatives to vote for or against certain bills.

For Baptist Building Staff Planning Week, 1-5. Pray that the laborers whom the Lord is calling to Argentina will respond and go as career missionaries or international Service Corps workers. Their presence is needed for reaching the Argentine people group.

The members of a local Baptist church in Skopje, Macedonia, are fighting among themselves, causing division in the Body of Christ. Pray for the Spirit to heal the hurts, restore love between believers, and help them to work together to resolve the problems.

Walking a city in prayer allows greater understanding of both the needs of a city and God's love and purposes for the city. Continue to lift the teams of prayerwalkers to the throne.

For VBS Early Bird Previews, Baptist Building, sponsored by Sunday School Dept. Please pray for language acquisition for missionaries Phil and Beth Oakley and Nancy Carpenter, who are seeking to reach the Mahi people of Benin.

Baptist representative Dave Rowser writes: "The law concerning proselytizing that we have all been praying for in Moldova has passed. It says that proselytizing is legal provided it is not done through violent means. It is no longer illegal to make converts. Praise the Lord"

Missionary Kathy McNair writes: "Give thanks for the 38 students who finished the first year of studies at the School of Missions in Montevideo, Uruguay. Many of the students took all of the courses offered. Pray for the second year which begins in March."

Phil Langley, California Baptist Convention, Fresno, Calif., is director of the department of new church extension. Pray for the key church programs. California is a large state, with about 33 million people. Right now, there are about 1,700 Southern Baptist churches. Pray for the 155 new churches started last year.

For Church Business Administrators Conference, Broadmoor BC, Jackson, sponsored by Church Administration-Pastoral Ministries. Give thanks to God for a sister in Tianjin, China, who received Christ in December and has since brought many of her relatives and friends to the Lord.

For Mississippi Baptist Religious Education Association, Meridian, sponsored by MBREA. For Area Keyboard Festival, FBC, Biloxi, sponsored by Church Music Dept. For State BSU Retreat, Camp Garaywa, sponsored by Student Work Dept.

For Area Keyboard Festivals, Colonial Hills BC, Southaven/FBC, Cleveland/FBC, Vicksburg/FBC, Meridian/Alta Woods BC, Jackson, sponsored by Church Music Dept.

For Women's Evangelism Conference, FBC, Jackson, sponsored by the Equipping Team. For Cecil Mahendranath, Rockville, Md., who is a national missionary. Pray for him as he witnesses to two families in two different embassies. Pray for all of the 167 nations that Cecil works with daily. Pray that God will continue to open doors of opportunity for Cecil.

Church leaders in Jeanoba, Jawani, and Zandua, Ghana, are in the final stages of taking full responsibility for the work in their villages. Pray that they will be wise and discerning leaders.

Growth Spiral Conference

**Tuesday, February 16
10 a.m. - 2 p.m.**

Chapel, Baptist Building, Jackson, \$5 cost

Growth Spiral is a tool to enable a church to experience growth through a dynamic, balanced Sunday School ministry. It is a systematic plan of goal setting and evaluation for your church. This conference will assist you in planning for the necessary elements of Sunday School growth such as:

- Enrollment ● Attendance ● Prospects
- Teaching Units ● Ministry Touches ● Space
- Workers ● Training ● SS Leadership Meetings
- Worship Attendance ● Offerings ● Baptisms

Any church pre-registering prior to February 10 will receive, at no charge, a 10-year history of the church and a Growth Spiral diskette.

Growth Spiral Conference Pre-registration Form

Church Name _____
Church Phone _____
Complete Address _____

Name of Person Making Reservations _____
Daytime Phone _____
Number of Persons Attending from the Church _____
Names of All Persons Attending: _____

I have enclosed a check for \$ _____ at \$5 per person.

(Make checks payable to Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.)

**Complete and return to:
Sunday School Department
PO Box 530, Jackson MS 39205**

**Need more information?
Call us at 1-800-748-1651 or (601)968-3800**



The following is a listing of contributions made to the Lord's work which were processed through the Business Office of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board from January 1, 1998 through December 31, 1998. An "*" denotes a gift from the association. If you have any questions about the amounts reported for your church, please contact the Business Office at 968-3800 or 1-800-748-1651.

	COOP PROGRAM	OTHER	TOTAL
ADAMS			
CALVARY	433.26	1381.36	1814.62
CLIFF TEMPLE	19576.17	10467.46	30043.63
CLOVERDALE	18255.23	13827.94	32083.17
CRAWFORD	1591.19	1721.51	3312.70
FBC MATCHIEZ	7581.79	6142.88	13724.67
IMMANUEL	11929.42	8270.40	20199.82
MORGANTOWN	23996.84	23878.21	47875.05
NEW HOPE	950.49	633.71	1584.20
PARKWAY	69340.57	21737.62	91078.19
SPRINGFIELD	3839.80	1880.70	5720.50
STATION	9570.39	1876.99	11447.38
WASHINGTON	18724.73	10663.94	29388.67
TOTAL	254071.80	163773.32	417845.12
ALCORN			
ASSOCIATION	0.00	122.00	122.00
ANTIOCH	2824.74	4957.85	7782.59
BETHLEHEM	2344.87	5412.57	7757.44
BRUSHCREEK	500.21	259.00	759.21
CALVARY	5521.04	6510.36	12031.40
COUNTY LINE	1100.00	4622.00	5722.00
DANVILLE	928.00	3612.80	4540.80
EAST CORINTH	5117.84	3612.80	8730.64
FBC BIGGERSVILLE	30.00	2845.05	2875.05
FBC CORINTH	124401.33	53532.48	177933.81
GLENDAL	13459.00	11446.00	24905.00
HINKLE	15018.96	4915.00	19933.96
HOLLY	4162.78	9454.75	13617.53
JACKSON	1635.70	1066.66	2702.36
KENDRICK	1957.35	1957.38	3914.73
KOSUTH FIRST	6910.90	5161.24	12072.14
LIBERTY HILL	1161.21	0.00	1161.21
LONE OAK	0.00	1000.00	1000.00
NORTH CORINTH	57279.20	41707.46	98986.66
OAKLAND	640.00	1022.00	1662.00
RIDGECREST	10204.25	16295.66	26499.91
RIENZI	8715.80	7189.83	15905.63
SHILOH	300.00	1703.15	2003.15
SOUTH CORINTH	80723.71	2357.88	83081.59
TATE	2991.07	2512.28	5503.35
TUSCOMINGO CHAPEL	1068.20	4293.25	5361.45
UNION	4142.93	1989.04	6131.97
UNITY	1068.20	2348.88	3417.08
WEST CORINTH	14194.73	12023.62	26218.35
WHEELER GROVE	37266.96	2098.74	39365.70
TOTAL	410947.68	264913.53	675861.21
ATTALA			
ASSOCIATION	0.00	5890.08	5890.08
BEAR CREEK	120.00	120.00	240.00
BEREA	1733.00	3354.00	5087.00
BOWLIN	45.00	635.00	680.00
CARSON RIDGE	0.00	3074.00	3074.00
COUNTY LINE	2985.00	5868.54	8853.54
DOTY SPRINGS	0.00	958.00	958.00
EBENEZER	763.00	3740.00	4503.00
EDGEFIELD	639.00	3740.00	4379.00
ETHEL	3936.00	7296.16	11232.16
FBC KOSCIUSKO	124797.79	675.43	125473.22
HURRICANE	479.30	2580.06	3059.36
JERUSALEM	1254.08	13191.32	14445.40
MCADAMS	9317.43	7317.01	16634.44
MCCOOL	9273.34	124.00	9397.34
NEW SALEM	18550.86	14268.23	32819.09
PARKWAY	404.00	669.00	1073.00
PEELER MEMORIAL	2102.24	2379.32	4481.56
PILGRIMS REST	92.80	92.80	185.60
PLEASANT RIDGE	55.93	127.00	182.93
PROVIDENCE	5628.58	9277.84	14906.42
SALLIS	1825.44	2329.41	4154.85
SAND HILL	8569.00	6312.18	14881.18
SECOND KOSCIUSKO	5767.55	5156.44	10923.99
SPRINGDALE	1809.00	1809.00	3618.00
UNITY	21111.00	24448.33	45559.33
WILLIAMSVILLE	1537.59	16590.35	18127.94
YAMOCANOOKANY	885.06	1052.55	1937.61
TOTAL	224403.99	191362.50	415766.49
BENTON-TIPPAH			
ASSOCIATION	0.00	646.70	646.70
ACADEMY	4705.47	362.22	5067.69
ASHLAND	18531.17	21443.23	39974.40
BLUFF SPRINGS	1998.00	1480.00	3478.00
CANAAN	660.00	993.73	1653.73
CHALYBEATE	3029.00	8663.00	11692.00
COMMUNITY	2156.10	516.00	2672.10
CORNFORD	1756.29	252.26	2008.55
DORY CREEK	465.98	2089.77	2555.75
DUMAS	31185.77	13366.44	44552.21
FAITH	10275.51	11274.04	21549.55
FALKNER	9934.40	3935.80	13870.20
FBC HICKORY FLAT	11704.66	4451.11	16155.77
FBC RIPLEY	9595.47	13671.11	23266.58
ELLOWSHIP	6553.77	5525.00	12078.77
FLAT ROCK	2269.73	1270.00	3539.73
HAMILTON	17308.80	13635.98	30944.78
HARMONY	100.00	100.00	200.00
LEWNEY MEMORIAL	5167.33	7401.42	12568.75
MACE DONIA	650.00	505.00	1155.00
MT OLIVE	2084.70	870.18	2954.88
NEW HOPE	270.00	646.00	916.00
NORTH RIPLEY	777.15	1854.32	2631.47
OAKLAND	7542.41	8186.96	15729.37
PALMER	721.53	604.16	1325.69
PEOPLES	2379.70	2379.73	4759.43
PINE GROVE DUMAS	8545.40	3740.79	12286.19
PINE GROVE HICKORY FLAT	3213.00	1913.12	5126.12
PLEASANT HILL TIPSLEY	1478.50	1545.95	3024.45
PLEASANT HILL ASHLAND	525.00	1923.00	2448.00
PROVIDENCE	1799.38	6004.36	7803.74
SHADY GROVE	3278.35	3790.48	7068.83
SPRINGDALE	11078.66	32412.99	43491.65
TIPPLERSVILLE	2879.02	2720.97	5599.99
TURNERS CHAPEL	0.00	2972.50	2972.50
UNITY	0.00	650.00	650.00
WEST RIPLEY	4377.11	20439.76	24816.87
WHITTENTOWN	1463.81	1771.81	3235.62
TOTAL	337953.78	263050.30	601004.08
MID-DELTA			
ASSOCIATION	0.00	130.17	130.17
ANTIOCH	8895.32	5851.40	14746.72
BETHANY	402.80	1103.62	1506.42
BETHLE	1492.80	3832.80	5325.60
BLAINE	250.00	1200.10	1450.10
CALVARY	13189.20	8198.27	21387.47
CHINESE	180.00	1980.00	2160.00
CLOCKERY	16160.40	8279.44	24439.84
DREAR	900.00	410.00	1310.00
EASTWOOD	9857.37	6310.15	16167.52
FAIRVIEW	3090.00	3084.00	6174.00
FBC BOYLE	6991.63	10826.91	17818.54
FBC CLEVELAND	10044.41	6934.12	16978.53
FBC INDIANOLA	4934.06	9064.94	14000.00
FBC INVERNESS	5700.00	6238.46	11938.46
FBC ROSEDALE	3408.45	9470.00	12878.45
FIRST BETHLEHEM	1800.00	1080.00	2880.00
GUINNESS	688.52	1080.00	1768.52
IMMANUEL	22122.13	6071.68	28193.81
INTERSTATE	4949.02	2071.99	7021.01
LINE	3763.99	2071.99	5835.98
MERIGOLD	6595.15	4079.50	10674.65
MOOREHEAD	9824.53	5850.72	15675.25
MORRISON CHAPEL	8681.14	2350.00	11031.14
PROVIDENCE	850.00	1540.00	2390.00
ROUNDWAY	8758.27	6354.84	15113.11
RULEVILLE	19316.71	12869.22	32185.93
SECOND INDIANOLA	7198.98	1609.44	8808.42
SHAW	3208.42	1587.28	4795.70
SKENE	2808.07	2070.89	4878.96
SOUTHSIDE	2870.87	1968.72	4839.59
SUNFLOWER	3275.94	1990.45	5266.39
WEST DREW	0.00	0.00	0.00

	COOP PROGRAM	OTHER	TOTAL
YALE STREET	7532.31	4248.77	11781.08
TOTAL	364153.94	282785.81	646939.75
CALHOUN			
ASSOCIATION	0.00	1580.26	1580.26
ANTIOCH	949.08	407.17	1356.25
BANNER	4916.88	4794.13	9711.01
BETHANY	0.00	161.00	161.00
BIG CREEK	10800.00	16841.51	27641.51
BRADFORD CHAPEL	17197.47	15900.70	33098.17
CALVARY	2766.23	7710.25	10476.48
CALVARY	2264.84	50.00	2314.84
COLLEGE HILL	1398.15	651.00	2049.15
CONCORD	4376.26	7307.84	11684.10
DERMA	33705.06	10908.78	44613.84
RIVERS FLAT	120.00	120.00	240.00
DUNCAN HILL	2043.00	190.00	2233.00
ELLARD	3207.85	1064.06	4271.91
FBC BRUCE	45450.00	14588.23	60038.23
FBC CALHOUN CITY	58909.26	39963.29	98872.55
FBC VARDAMAN	25961.59	9951.41	35913.00
LANTIRP	200.00	400.00	600.00
LOYD	0.00	100.00	100.00
MACEDONIA	2455.61	2145.88	4601.49
MIDWAY	2443.01	1648.73	4091.74
MT COMFORT	3599.54	2549.02	6148.56
MT MORIAH	15115.44	7220.62	22336.06
MT TABOR	300.00	300.00	600.00
NEW HOPE	1469.50	1603.58	3073.08
NEW LIBERTY	3047.02	441.60	3488.62
NEW PROVIDENCE	2108.47	6305.67	8414.14
OAK GROVE	1128.00	914.00	2042.00
OLDTOWN	6238.56	6290.64	12529.20
PARKER	285.73	570.69	856.42
PILGRIMS REST	285.73	390.73	676.46
PITTSBORO	6167.07	3753.22	9920.29
PLEASANT GROVE	429.59	241.87	671.46
PLEASANT HILL	8060.00	6927.94	14987.94
PLEASANT RIDGE	3829.92	3215.92	7045.84
POPLAR SPRINGS	720.20	1159.13	1879.33
ROCKY BRANCH	1035.43	2232.49	3267.92
ROCKY MOUNT	696.00	463.00	1159.00
SABOUGLA	8127.08	5522.14	13649.22
SABOUGLA	298.72	1063.08	1361.80
SECOND CALHOUN	1400.00	2233.60	3633.60
SHILOH	1695.72	14813.99	16509.71
SPRING HILL	2548.71	1841.62	4390.33
TURKEY CREEK	102.00	370.00	472.00
WESTSIDE	2885.29	2178.93	5064.22
TOTAL	293225.87	212995.52	506221.39
CARROLL			
ASSOCIATION	0.00	88.50	88.50
BLACK HAWK	1629.42	2475.10	4104.52
CALVARY	1750.61	2867.20	4617.81
CARROLLTON	48255.92	19518.64	67774.56
CENTREVILLE	1338.50	686.42	2024.92
HARMONY	1300.00	2150.00	3450.00
HICKORY GROVE	608.52	658.52	1267.04
LIBERTY	4611.11	4933.82	9544.93
MALMAISON	4109.00	2203.00	6312.00
MCCARLEY	1048.60	664.30	1712.90
MT OLIVE	14177.85	11597.98	25775.83
MT PISGAH	6407.61	2751.75	9159.36
NEW BETHLE	1933.66	3459.18	5392.84
NORTH CARROLLTON	10037.34	6929.25	16966.59
PROVIDENCE	4969.78	4105.48	9075.26
SHILOH	182.00	830.50	1012.50
VAIDEN	16500.83	20676.97	37177.80
VALLEY HILL	1764.77	2389.00	4153.77
TOTAL	121625.52	88985.61	210611.13
CHICKASAW			
AMITY	1153.75	1467.72	2621.47
ARBOR GROVE	2741.70	1414.78	4156.48
BETHEL	6327.71	4233.26	10560.97
CARNATION	1438.63	810.00	2248.63
FBC HOUKA	12762.88	5355.00	18117.88
FBC HOUSTON	121442.60	1751.80	123194.40
FBC OKOLONA	32587.00	12348.85	44935.85
FBC WOODLAND	4167.23	1609.15	5776.38
FELLOWSHIP	0.00	469.00	469.00
MT OLIVE	853.44	1025.00	1878.44
NEW PROSPECT	480.00	366.00	846.00
PARKWAY	15795.61	2948.71	18744.32
PLEASANT GROVE	1920.70	3496.23	5416.93
PLEASANT RIDGE	1800.00	774.50	2574.50
SCHOONER VALLEY	2871.41	571.95	3443.36
SHILOH	0.00	4657.00	4657.00
VAN VLEET	0.00	650.00	650.00
TOTAL	206342.66	43949.95	250292.61
CHOCTAW			
ACKERMAN	27138.65	15062.79	42201.44
BETHLEHEM	600.00	1137.00	1737.00
BLUFF SPRINGS	300.00	1100.00	1400.00
BLUFF SPRINGS	5186.00	4534.00	9720.00
CHESTER	12925.15	6557.27	19482.42
CLEAR SPRINGS	0.00	100.00	100.00
CONCORD	1504.76	2013.86	3518.62
CRANE CREEK	125.00	150.00	275.00
CROSS ROADS	100.00	50.00	150.00
FELLOWSHIP	5459.83	3503.79	8963.62
FENTRESS	1575.00	1775.00	3350.00
FRENCH CAMP	3548.24	7053.95	10602.19
HOPEWELL	2879.00	300.00	3179.00
MT MORIAH	2348.95	2072.13	4421.08
MT PISGAH	6473.15	8951.25	15424.40
NEW HAVEN	2143.80	2705.02	4848.82
NEW ZION	2924.19	1925.23	4849.42
PROVIDENCE	500.00	500.00	1000.00
VICTORY	4195.96	2292.64	6488.60
WEIR	11830.14	11053.79	22883.93
TOTAL	89652.12	72354.75	162006.87
CLARKE			
ASSOCIATION	0.00	83.40	83.40
ANTIOCH	939.72	602.88	1542.60
BUCATUNNA	1520.00	400.00	1920.00
CALVARY	2070.00	1500.00	3570.00
CENTER RIDGE	1432.00	1045.10	2477.10
DE SOTO	11361.00	8935.01	20296.01
EAST PLEASANT GROVE	600.00	567.00	1167.00
ELIM	1142.33	702.76	1845.09
ENTERPRISE	29334.96	21375.53	50710.49
FBC QUITMAN	17018.82	41601.25	58620.07
FBC STONEWALL	845.20	7553.20	8398.40
HARMONY	6267.15	3180.99	9448.14
HEBRON RIDGE	1156.24	2874.91	4031.15
HEPHZIBAH	1413.16	3549.91	4963.07
KNIGHTS VALLEY	1003.00	852.70	1855.70
MONT ROSE	2177.90	1043.54	3221.44
MT ZION	1917.00	4067.76	5984.76
NORTHTRUP CHAPEL	175.00	84.00	259.00
OAK GROVE	2836.16	2614.60	5450.76
PACHUTA	750.00	5556.10	6306.10
PHALTI	134.03	402.01	536.04
PINE GROVE	7892.00	6709.55	14601.55
PINE GROVE	366.36	246.13	612.49
PLEASANT GROVE	1970.80	600.00	2570.80
PLEASANT HILL	13877.82	12422.63	26300.45
ROLLING CREEK	4132.12	1110.00	5242.12
SHUBUTA	9564.41	2003.83	11568.24
SOUENLOVIE	4612.76	7782.02	12394.78
UNION	1627.91	3337.47	4965.38
TOTAL	208489.25	153066.42	361555.67
COPIAH			
ASSOCIATION	0.00	1000.00	1000.00
ANTIOCH	4238.73	4355.92	8594.65
BETHEL	5483.00	5114.24	10597.24
COUNTY LINE	0.00	8704.52	8704.52
DAMASCUS	454.62	1759.60	2214.22
FBC CRYSTAL SPRINGS	81658.78	45282.81	126941.59
FBC HAZLEHURST	33126.27	19252.68	52378.95
GALLIE	300.00	525.00	825.00
GALLMAN	5966.00	7450.36	13416.36
GEORGETOWN	8573.80	13483.39	22057.19
HARMONY	2500.00	21018.54	23518.54
HIGHLAND	6624.67	4148.30	10772.97
HOPEWELL	1551.06	1014.88	2565.94
NEW PROVIDENCE	654.00	4978.00	5632.00
NEW ZION	1019.83	14136.36	15156.19
PEARL VALLEY	3838.58	4068.51	7907.09
PILGRIMS REST	8971.00	7492.00	16463.00
PINE BLUFF	147.50	850.00	997.50
POPLAR SPRINGS	1230.00	980.75	2210.75
ROCKY HILL	1388.25	2016.25	3404.50
SHADY GROVE	890.83	9658.02	10548.85
SMYRNA	5758.00	2932.00	8690.00
SPRING HILL	2768.06	1708.00	4476.06
STRONG HOP	12834.00	7047.83	19881.83
SVL VARENA	5940.00	3570.85	9510.85
WESTSIDE	15795.22	13027.64	28822.86
WESTSIDE	86.16	0.00	86.16
ZION HILL	6084.00	4774.67	10858.67
TOTAL	236821.91	218826.23	455648.14
COV-IEFF DAVIS			
ASSOCIATION	0.00	10405.16	10405.16
ANTIOCH	3000.82	2738.25	5739.07
BASSFIELD	8349.99	6272.99	14622.98
BETHANY	12546.24	9928.57	22474.81

	COOP PROGRAM	OTHER	TOTAL
FRIENDSHIP	2842.13	400.00	3242.13
GRACE	32020.95	12381.09	44402.04
HARMONY	2600.33	2797.77	5398.10
HEBRON	10154.13	5500.55	15654.68
HIGHLAND	15266.66	9467.38	24734.04
HILLCREST	82712.16	54868.33	137580.49
HUNTER ROAD	7460.66	2654.14	10114.80
INDIAN SPRINGS	33467.52	15890.65	49358.17
LAWN HAVEN	4244.94	4244.94	8489.88
LOWERY CREEK	8975.97	809.56	9785.53
MAGNOLIA	18286.25	11905.88	30192.13
MOSELLE MEMORIAL	13814.43	10052.22	23866.65
MYRICK	5479.78	1558.39	7038.17
NEW HOPE	3702.18	1305.50	5007.68
OAKLAND GROVE	13258.78	2748.27	16007.05
PARK HAVEN	0.00	536.65	536.65
PECAN GROVE	51724.8	4852.17	10024.65
PINE GROVE	15394.00	7818.27	23212.27
PLAINWAY	17791.75	9715.65	27507.40
PLEASANT HOME	15214.20	5244.56	20458.76
SALEM HEIGHTS	27342.22	652.70	27994.92
SAND HILL	12845.08	2809.39	15654.47
SANDERS HILL	25483.14	6020.61	31503.75
SECOND AVENUE	13100.00	15337.27	28437.27
SHELTON	6054.49	1437.00	7491.49
SUMMER AND	15321.64	14741.53	30063.17
TALLAHOMA	754.44	2144.48	2898.92
TRINITY	26726.91	14144.48	40871.39
TUCKERS CROSSING	19146.59	9916.02	29062.61
UNITY	7675.00	5840.85	13515.85
WEST ELLISVILLE	38823.43	18520.01	57343.44
WEST LAUREL	47661.96	23200.85	70862.81
WILDWOOD	11152.70	5994.21	17146.91
TOTAL	890875.52	424022.10	1314897.62

KEMPER	0.00	583.00	583.00
ASSOCIATION	1999.53	1068.51	3068.04
BAY SPRINGS	3126.00	512.10	3638.10
BLUFF SPRINGS	104.00	626.00	730.00
CENTER RIDGE	7000.00	4752.00	11752.00
CORINTH	1019.59	340.00	1359.59
DEKALB	10275.67	8132.81	18408.48
LIBERTY	3204.00	2050.04	5254.04
SALEM	600.00	1300.00	1900.00
SCOOBA	1094.00	1886.56	2980.56
UNION	1904.40	2646.77	4551.17
UNION HILL	251.00	425.00	676.00
VARDAMAN	1345.14	1345.14	2690.28
WAHALAK	1265.00	700.00	1965.00
TOTAL	43457.45	37676.23	81133.68

LAFAYETTE	0.00	893.00	893.00
ASSOCIATION	31860.00	18690.91	50550.91
ANCHOR	4200.00	1935.09	6135.09
CALVARY	19709.96	9865.97	29575.93
CENTER CREEK	9459.67	9459.67	18919.34
COLLEGE HILL HEIGHTS	1360.00	1360.00	2720.00
DELA	285.81	122.20	408.01
DENMARK	14677.77	23115.87	37793.64
FBC ABBEVILLE	78878.69	61376.75	140255.44
FBC OXFORD	23713.13	10007.22	33720.35
HAMMONTOWN	3974.46	6010.88	9985.34
NEW BETHEL	822.39	927.20	1749.59
NEW HOPE	29360.91	1811.00	31171.91
NEW PROSPECT	115424.26	38199.29	153623.55
NORTH OXFORD	204.00	610.00	814.00
PARIS	811.51	1915.03	2726.54
PHILADELPHIA	1860.00	6860.00	8720.00
SHILOH	11324.05	6866.15	18190.20
TAYLOR	3240.08	1533.61	4773.69
TEMPLE HEIGHTS	5340.73	2487.12	7827.85
TRINITY	240.00	172.90	412.90
TULSA	5715.97	3092.56	8808.53
UNION WEST	4960.83	499.86	5460.69
YELLOW LEAF	9696.72	27145.82	36842.54
TOTAL	375167.74	239329.10	614496.84

LAMAR	450.00	375.00	825.00
AUTUMN RIDGE	3276.36	1262.79	4539.15
BAXTERVILLE	1732.67	4294.06	6026.73
BELLEVUE	13307.69	16153.64	29461.33
CALVARY	933.91	90.00	1023.91
COAL TOWN	3801.00	4323.75	8124.75
CORINTH	11180.94	10608.44	21789.38
FBC LUMBERTON	22485.10	6720.55	29205.65
FBC PURVIS	7544.70	9865.14	17409.84
FBC SUMRALL	41549.08	29062.79	70611.87
GOOD HOPE	5873.29	1352.51	7225.80
GREENVILLE	2481.23	400.00	2881.23
HICKORY GROVE	3150.00	1220.75	4370.75
IMMANUEL	34839.05	15287.77	50126.82
MILITARY	2095.00	2095.00	4190.00
OKALAH	5694.48	7909.32	13603.80
ORAL	11020.28	3284.00	14304.28
RICHBURG	2246.65	10246.64	12493.29
TRINITY	7481.24	4361.49	11842.73
TOTAL	262794.67	145126.84	407921.51

LAUDERDALE	8023.20	5996.05	14019.25
ARKADOLPHIA	1020.00	1390.00	2410.00
ARROWOOD	0.00	528.67	528.67
BAILEY	15620.35	6468.60	22088.95
BETHANY	5371.41	617.44	5988.85
BLAIRWOOD	9000.00	1465.37	10465.37
CALVARY	10198.73	4810.13	15008.86
CARMEL	18651.56	10024.03	28675.59
CAUSEYVILLE	4395.38	2954.36	7349.74
CENTER GROVE	600.00	120.00	720.00
EIGHTH AVENUE	7145.15	664.15	7809.30
FBC COLLINSVILLE	74241.13	28155.88	102397.01
FBC LAUDERDALE	19335.88	6658.85	25994.73
FBC MARION	21825.90	21825.11	43651.01
FBC MERIDIAN	90226.21	69758.74	159985.95
FELTOWSHIP	18728.26	7290.00	26018.26
FIFTEENTH AVENUE	60021.60	4951.82	64973.42
GOODWATER	1862.71	116.00	1978.71
HEBRON	25668.23	53024.56	78692.79
HICKORY GROVE	1155.00	682.88	1837.88
HIGHLAND	109203.14	37771.03	146974.17
LIBERTY	7414.69	3896.82	11311.51
LONG CREEK	19512.97	2832.00	22344.97
MACDONIA	9512.97	8668.11	18181.08
MEHMAN	1379.36	1104.69	2484.05
MIDWAY	76895.84	17536.94	94432.78
MT GILEAD	7149.03	8944.69	16093.72
MT HOREB	5049.36	4011.23	9060.59
MT OLIVE	3150.00	1934.70	5084.70
MT VERNON	953.08	1054.48	2007.56
MT VIEW	467.87	456.65	924.52
NEW HOPE	30302.06	20843.81	51145.87
NORTHCREST	171252.97	17396.49	188649.46
NORTHEAST	3708.25	2987.45	6695.70
OAK GROVE	13589.57	16473.97	30063.54
OAKLAND HEIGHTS	21551.46	31271.16	52822.62
PINE FOREST	4104.00	8751.00	12855.00
POPLAR SPRINGS	99484.91	62073.48	161558.39
RUSSELL	22423.00	46676.14	69099.14
SALEM	1200.00	3049.00	4249.00
SOUTH SIDE	32955.78	19429.49	52385.27
STANTON	5059.38	2717.84	7777.22
THOMASDALE	8812.33	5784.30	14596.63
TRINITY	975.00	962.00	1937.00
WETWOOD	40146.97	22825.52	62972.49
TOTAL	1032727.20	627816.87	1660544.07

LAWRENCE	0.00	100.00	100.00
ASSOCIATION	1462.00	4427.00	5889.00
ANTIOCH	4742.49	4266.02	9008.51
ARM	24287.34	6330.88	30618.22
BETHEL	17966.98	6342.90	24309.88
CALVARY	8601.97	2308.00	10909.97
CARMEL	3244.03	3481.75	6725.78
CROOKED CREEK	1625.57	1350.00	2975.57
FAITH	1798.14	975.00	2773.14
HEPBIBAH	2714.60	2109.00	4823.60
JAYESS	63537.50	34692.74	98230.24
MONTICELLO	55363.01	17256.78	72619.79
NEW HEBRON	11070.00	2717.84	13787.84
NEW HOPE	5229.62	2709.55	7939.17
NEW ZION	1095.84	494.96	1590.80
NOLA	6834.77	1192.35	8027.12
OLD SILVER CREEK	6316.15	10752.35	17068.50
PROVIDENCE	1232.15	8844.98	10077.13
SALIS VALLEY	1232.15	8844.98	10077.13
SHILOH	33234.24	12415.66	45649.90
TOPEKA	4626.52	6485.03	11111.55
WALNUT	3587.09	2488.00	6075.09
TOTAL	269861.09	139090.01	408951.10

LEAKE	0.00	500.00	500.00
ASSOCIATION	600.00	1200.00	1800.00
BETHEL	572.91	1318.19	1891.10
CEDAR GROVE	7032.10	300.00	7332.10
CONWAY	20754.57	27786.67	48541.24
CORINTH	2189.79	11070.00	13259.79
EMMANUEL	26283.39	11481.57	37764.96
FBC CARTHAGE	4287.04	5631.04	9918.08
FREEDY	0.00	0.00	0.00

GOOD HOPE	2080.43	1356.23	3436.66
LENA	6323.04	7138.14	13461.18
MADDEN	8690.27	6986.35	15676.62
MCDONALD	2789.57	0.00	2789.57
MIDWAY	490.62	540.62	1031.24
MT CARMEL	510.00	1045.00	1555.00
MT ZION	5384.21	4485.82	9870.03
NEW HOPE	1586.84	2945.94	4532.78
NEW PROVIDENCE	920.00	100.00	1020.00
NEW ZION	273.55	533.00	806.55
PEARL HILL	3316.69	4840.40	8157.09
PLEASANT HILL	200.00	1226.00	1426.00
REMUS	400.00	860.00	1260.00
RENFROE	4592.34	4724.06	9316.40
ROCKY POINT	1734.81	359.00	2093.81
SARASOTA	1137.00	3770.81	4907.81
SPRINGFIELD	1734.49	2270.64	4005.13
STANDING PINE	3525.00	7408.15	10933.15
SUNRISE	4708.26	2117.12	6825.38
THOMASTOWN	10024.39	8114.98	18139.37
TRINITY	1383.70	4120.00	5503.70
TUSCULOA	8711.32	1120.44	9831.76
WALTON GROVE	1759.16	2138.07	3897.23
WEST CARTHAGE	1340.77	1543.26	2884.03
WIGGINS	115312.24	12159.53	238471.77
TOTAL	115312.24	12159.53	238471.77

LEBANON			
ASSOCIATION	00	500.00	500.00
BEACON	3340.07	3839.21	7179.28
CALVARY	17587.00	6756.52	24343.52
CARTERSVILLE	59755.21	25603.23	85358.44
CRESTVIEW	4420.00	3062.00	7482.00
CROSSROADS	360.00	140.00	500.00
DIXIE	31322.50	27214.97	58537.47
EASTABUCHIE	2043.97	2072.23	4116.20
FBC BROOKLYN	9458.04	4584.41	14042.45
FBC CARNES	3697.00	2383.64	6080.64
FBC GLENDALE	29567.68	18772.83	48340.51
FBC HATTIESBURG	156464.79	98671.48	255136.27
FBC MC LAURIN	6616.79	8075.34	14692.13
FBC PETAL	23093.49	13874.63	36968.12
GRACE CHAPEL	0.00	50.00	50.00
GREENS CREEK	16104.55	5844.21	21948.76
LINCOLN ROAD	13705.07	11218.00	24923.07
LYNN RAY ROAD	2766.33	6910.39	9676.72
MACEDONIA	38019.62	7768.66	45788.28
MAIN STREET	76567.44	45272.49	121839.93
MAYBANK	10599.55	4405.04	15004.59
MT OLIVE MISSIONARY	400.00	0.00	400.00
NEW HOPE	1114.11	29.00	1143.11
NINETEENTH AVENUE	9581.83	5578.79	15160.62
NORTH 31ST AVENUE	45.00	422.00	467.00
PETAL HARVEY	74720.74	29130.81	103851.55
PINEVIEW	12133.32	2384.67	14517.99
PROVIDENCE	31260.00	32727.73	63987.73
RAWLS SPRINGS	18234.98	9567.19	27802.17
RIDGECREST	2027.06	1898.00	3925.06
SUNRISE	2227.07	1560.53	3787.60
TEMPLE HATTIESBURG	189166.30	93658.39	282824.69
THIRTYEIGHTH AVENUE	32474.86	19918.63	52393.49
TRINITY	2390.65	1023.96	3414.61
UNIVERSITY	1924.72	21380.61	23305.33
TOTAL	895916.44	521871.59	1417788.03

	COOP PROGRAM	OTHER	TOTAL		COOP PROGRAM	OTHER	TOTAL		COOP PROGRAM	OTHER	TOTAL		COOP PROGRAM	OTHER	TOTAL
NOXUBEE				PRENTISS				CENTER HILL				WAYNE			
ASSOCIATION	00	900.00	900.00	CALVARY	4862.37	1467.00	6329.37	CLEAR SPRINGS	300.00	00	300.00	ASSOCIATION	00	2129.50	2129.50
BROOKSVILLE	10023.47	7892.55	17916.02	CANDLERS CHAPEL	2044.90	4050.19	6095.09	CONCORD	863.16	1418.00	2281.16	BIG CREEK	7709.00	2761.00	10470.00
CALVARY MACON	1200.00	579.00	1779.00	CASEY CREEK	1849.18	765.25	2614.43	CORINTH	3376.47	1723.46	5099.93	CALVARY	49224.27	9459.68	58683.95
CONCORD	450.00	1475.00	1925.00	CRESTWOOD	3138.14	3342.29	6480.43	EASTSIDE	1032.00	00	1032.00	CHAPARRAL	1688.50	4832.66	6521.16
ELON	3580.40	1272.00	4852.40	EAST BOONEVILLE	3138.35	22280.52	53667.87	FBC MIZE	6726.69	6664.36	13391.05	CHARITY	1052.47	878.84	1931.31
FBC MACON	24416.20	15728.54	40145.49	EAST MARIETTA	1920.98	00	1920.98	FBC POLKVILLE	8086.88	4087.45	12174.33	CLARK CREEK	2598.15	4218.13	6816.28
FBC MASHULAVILLE	3362.71	2484.08	5846.79	EAST PLEASANT RIDGE	2089.76	2594.04	4683.80	FBC RALEIGH	41652.29	30022.46	71674.75	COUNTY LINE	1351.00	1559.00	2910.00
SHUQUALAK	3000.00	6105.20	9105.20	EAST PRENTISS	5191.71	3602.99	8794.70	FBC TAYLORSVILLE	17287.97	17287.97	34575.94	COVY	1037.00	645.00	1682.00
VERNON	684.24	110.00	794.24	FAIRVIEW	2626.58	5260.49	7887.07	FBC WOODVILLE	2220.36	3055.36	5275.72	CROSSROAD	950.39	926.66	1877.05
WEST SIDE	1315.16	622.85	1938.01	FBC BOONEVILLE	50704.98	56504.98	107209.96	GOODWATER	715.00	496.43	1211.43	CREWITT	434.00	534.00	968.00
TOTAL	48032.88	40097.22	88130.10	FBC JUMPERTOWN	415.12	97.00	512.12	HARMONY	1847.86	592.61	2440.47	EURETTA	5831.96	4549.99	10381.95
PANOLA				FOREST HILL	1527.80	468.00	1995.80	HIGH HILL	75.00	00	75.00	FBC BUCKATUNNA	5972.60	4327.72	10300.32
ASSOCIATION	00	3542.30	3542.30	GASTON	21130.57	23940.83	45071.40	LEAF RIVER	3763.61	4529.97	8293.58	FBC CHICORA	6345.13	7025.22	13370.35
CALVARY	24138.71	8739.86	32878.57	HILL S CHAPEL	357.59	179.81	537.40	LIBERTY	1288.71	1288.71	2577.42	FBC CLARA	30176.83	9848.74	40025.57
COMO	5185.59	1646.10	6831.69	INGRAM	5687.34	6490.15	12177.49	LEONA	2291.60	3291.69	5583.29	FBC STATE LINE	12733.33	9171.68	21905.01
COURTLAND	4437.00	1070.00	5507.00	MT OLIVE	19381.79	18591.00	37973.79	MT PLEASANT	1725.02	1406.72	3131.74	FBC TRINITY	12733.33	16619.02	29352.35
CRINSHAW	5727.00	4070.60	9797.60	MT ZION COMMUNITY	150.00	00	150.00	MT ZION	2435.04	1475.26	3910.30	FBC WAYNESBORO	102323.20	4177.21	143800.41
ENID LAKE	1515.45	1085.65	2601.10	NEW BURTON	672.45	300.00	972.45	MT ZION	1725.02	1406.72	3131.74	HIWANNEE	600.00	738.00	1338.00
ENON	4017.00	1371.21	5388.21	OAK HILL	2643.92	7186.39	9830.31	NEW HOME	450.00	2460.00	2910.00	LIBERTY	00	1000.00	1000.00
FBC BATESVILLE	136300.42	28734.88	165035.30	OSBORNE CREEK	2613.20	3463.20	6076.40	NEW SARDIS	4284.87	4884.85	9169.72	MT ZION	5712.70	9078.47	14791.17
FBC SARDIS	37418.88	31639.99	69058.87	PINEY GROVE	690.73	1321.06	2011.79	NEW SARDIS	3912.93	5954.34	9867.27	PLEASANT GROVE	5647.78	4977.88	10625.66
FIRST FAITH	749.59	675.80	1425.39	PLEASANT GROVE	415.84	634.13	1049.97	OAK GROVE	3456.54	12740.37	16196.91	RIVERSIDE	5408.25	21625.66	27033.91
GOOD HOPE	5278.71	4897.81	10176.52	THURASHER	2162.63	7196.80	9359.43	ROCKY HILL	793.52	16.02	809.54	STRENGTHFORD	3006.80	1273.00	4279.80
HEBRON	5275.47	493.63	5769.10	TUSCUMBIA	1110.00	3884.00	4994.00	ROSE HILL	897.49	00	897.49	WATER OAK	175.00	00	175.00
IMMANUEL	2768.17	700.64	3468.81	WHEELER	5281.23	5321.82	10603.05	SALEM	421.15	1684.64	2105.79	WEST SHADY GROVE	7557.45	5852.65	13410.10
LIBERTY HILL	8482.00	1572.00	10054.00	TOTAL	170055.96	178950.80	349006.76	SARDIS	1894.01	3612.42	5506.43	ZION REST	3407.47	1460.36	4867.83
LOCKE STATION	5521.41	737.04	6258.45	RANKIN				SHADY GROVE	2370.22	20113.47	43817.69	TOTAL	282482.25	148130.24	430612.49
MCIVOR	7125.99	2800.25	9926.24	ANDREW CHAPEL	886.79	3333.63	4220.42	SHARONA	540.00	1600.00	2140.00	WINSTON			
NORTH BATESVILLE	5850.19	8480.90	13891.09	ANTIOCH	23720.89	10439.02	34159.91	UNION	7804.60	11080.45	18885.05	ANTIOCH	2798.00	2698.85	5496.85
PEACH CREEK	1500.00	707.48	2207.48	BARFOOT SPRINGS	1183.62	2113.26	3296.88	WALNUT GROVE	200.00	303.00	503.00	BETHEL	5683.58	3321.83	9005.41
PHARSALA	497.81	300.00	797.81	BETHEL	9606.67	5741.59	15348.26	WHITE OAK	8706.90	8001.97	16708.87	CALVARY	14016.88	11195.01	25211.89
PILGRIMS REST	6939.11	1831.00	8770.11	BRIAR HILL	106891.78	36718.44	143610.22	WILKINSON MEMORIAL	165114.61	151358.25	316472.86	CRYSTAL RIDGE	2273.00	3597.00	5870.00
POPE	14751.00	2808.00	17559.00	CASTLEWOODS	18611.73	25814.22	44426.95	TISHOMINGO				DRY CREEK	2363.62	4050.69	6414.31
ROSE HILL	100.00	00	100.00	CENTRAL	28948.06	19006.74	47954.80	ASSOCIATION	1386.92	1100.00	2486.92	EAST LOUISVILLE	5360.65	629.38	5990.03
SARDIS LAKE	6866.75	212.58	7079.33	CLEAR BRANCH	4954.52	2700.40	7654.92	BELMONT FIRST	5199.96	16786.21	21986.17	ENON	4364.99	1908.51	6273.50
SHADY GROVE	4417.22	2347.51	6764.73	CLEAR	27485.97	14916.71	42402.68	BETHLEHEM	794.76	1491.76	2286.52	EVERGREEN	5264.75	1276.08	6540.83
TOWANA	2572.09	930.00	3502.09	CONCORD	8856.75	935.00	9791.75	CALVARY	5631.68	9521.08	15152.76	FBC LOUISVILLE	138474.92	67994.76	206469.68
UNION	2043.35	1236.02	3279.37	CROSS ROAD	1200.00	1200.00	2400.00	EASTPORT	233.60	3311.47	3545.07	GOOD HOPE	1200.00	542.02	1742.02
WEST BATESVILLE	00	100.00	100.00	CROSSROADS	5416.51	4292.29	9708.80	FBC BURNSVILLE	1432.58	1919.00	3351.58	GUM BRANCH	100.00	955.00	1055.00
TOTAL	298107.03	118954.33	417061.36	CROSSGATES	166436.56	32007.49	198444.05	FOREST GROVE	00	100.00	100.00	HARMONY	11651.72	7516.15	19167.87
PEARL RIVER				CROSSVIEW	5729.98	5819.49	11549.47	GOLDEN CENTRAL	11944.79	16411.65	28356.44	LIBERTY	6007.15	4492.40	10499.55
ASSOCIATION	00	69.00	69.00	DRY CREEK	2088.10	893.90	2982.00	HARMONY HILL	1134.22	100.00	1234.22	MACEDONIA	7006.01	5381.64	12387.65
BETHEL	12888.62	11656.84	24545.46	EASTSIDE PEARL	39065.18	1893.90	40954.08	IRLAND	726.50	1477.62	2204.12	MARS HILL	3997.54	4940.44	8937.98
CENTRAL	11528.48	3627.55	15156.03	FBC PEARL	2954.07	1925.45	4879.52	IUKA	24200.00	7959.05	32159.05	MURPHY CREEK	14910.35	6830.86	21741.21
CORINTH	2013.39	14075.84	16089.23	FBC BRANDON	32885.20	103424.08	432248.33	MT MORIAH	600.00	900.00	1500.00	NOXAPATER	28851.00	16402.23	45253.23
CRANE CREEK	10888.44	3888.06	14776.50	FBC FANNIN	31550.91	14457.42	46008.33	MT VERNON	802.10	306.00	1108.10	OAK GROVE	807.60	3405.00	4212.60
DERRY	1538.80	2195.80	3734.60	FBC FLORENCE	48318.26	31228.36	79546.62	MT ZION	849.90	5943.26	6793.16	POPLAR FLAT	5547.00	5409.78	10956.78
EMMANUEL	180.00	360.00	540.00	FBC FLOWOOD	19866.49	8775.42	28641.91	NEW PROSPECT	575.05	6359.73	6934.78	SHILOH	5919.08	1328.86	7247.94
FAITH MEMORIAL	2319.98	1382.35	3702.33	FBC PEARL	72408.53	29894.35	102302.88	NEW SALEM	6879.22	8041.40	14920.62	SINGLETON	1390.00	1790.00	3180.00
FBC CARRIERS	4338.85	2716.56	7055.41	FBC RICHLAND	54999.96	32962.37	87962.33	OLD UNION	2453.66	3451.57	5905.23	SOUTH LOUISVILLE	1711.50	1000.00	2711.50
FBC NICHOLSON	3225.00	1295.66	4520.66	CALLULIE	1115.02	1457.52	2572.54	OLDHAM	3058.12	3053.66	6111.78	UNION RIDGE	1000.00	1170.00	2170.00
FBC OZONA	12736.26	97450.14	224818.40	GRACE	1252.37	1402.41	2654.78	PADEN	117.64	90.00	207.64	WEST CHAPEL	4434.84	10141.43	14576.27
FBC PICAYUNE	50043.74	40193.41	90237.15	GRANDVIEW	14814.25	7427.49	22241.74	SHADY GROVE	90.00	296.00	386.00	WEST END	2054.00	2239.00	4293.00
FBC POPLARVILLE	2519.66	1537.87	4057.53	GUNTER ROAD	3809.00	6116.00	9925.00	SOUTH CROSSROADS	1673.82	818.15	2491.97	TOTAL	300991.71	181209.65	482201.36
FLAT TOP UNITY	4321.00	3169.25	7490.25	HICKORY RIDGE	4513.80	7038.62	11552.42	SOUTHWOOD	697.54	915.49	1613.03	YALOBUSHA			
FORDS CREEK	1717.50	1445.40	3162.90	JOHNS	3511.16	8334.75	11845.91	TISHOMINGO	22100.26	19357.75	41458.01	ASSOCIATION	00	125.00	125.00
GOODYARD	4049.30	4546.25	8595.55	LEESBORO	19069.04	5904.94	24973.98	UNION	1137.84	503.33	1641.17	BETHEL	12856.00	7201.00	20057.00
GUM POIND	4344.15	2452.00	6796.15	LIBERTY	24768.63	9316.26	34084.89	YELLOW CREEK	2068.83	2383.49	4452.32	CALVARY	2598.40	1565.00	4163.40
HARMONY	2195.64	2194.57	4390.21	LIFELINE	1252.77	578.52	1831.29	TOTAL	11215.10	114124.32	226239.42	CAMP GROUND	1817.15	6794.58	8611.73
HILLCREST ROAD	1103.17	00	1103.17	LIGHTHOUSE	287.83	209.52	497.35	UNION				CLEAR SPRINGS	270.00	630.00	900.00
JACKSONLANDING	16780.30	11261.49	28041.79	MCLENNAN HEIGHTS	71588.96	34151.91	105740.87	BEECH GROVE	170.06	170.07	340.13	DELAY ROAD	275.00	190.00	465.00
JUNIPER GROVE	2548.83	5920.20	8469.03	MCNOW GROVE	13219.65	5049.89	20769.54	BETHESDA	1477.29	1777.29	3254.58	ELAM	1622.40	1311.71	2934.11
NEW HENLEYFIELD	17624.25	16899.46	34523.71	MOUNTAIN CREEK	3517.75	2651.00	6168.75	ELMO	2837.98	5328.50	8166.48	FBC COFFEEVILLE	38974.41	22979.36	61953.77
NEW PALESTINE	6120.13	7285.09	13405.22	MT PISCAG	12527.41	7830.46	20357.87	FAYETTE	691.00	499.00	1190.00	FBC WATER VALLEY	36665.70	62669.79	99335.49
OAK HILL	8615.00	6285.00	14900.00	MT ZION	12800.00	7847.00	20647.00	HERMANVILLE	1116.15	968.80	2085.95	FRIENDSHIP	1343.03	100.00	1443.03
OLIVE	2163.61	3590.94	5754.55	OAKDALE	23293.29	2936.47	26229.76	HOVSHAW	74.00	1774.58	1774.58	HOPEWELL	920.03	1456.00	2376.03
PARKVIEW	26734.00	15321.05	42055.05	PARK											

STATEMENTS OFFENSIVE

Editor:

I received my January 1999 issue of SBC Life in the mail last week like thousands of other Southern Baptists.

One article in particular stood out as offensive. It was written by R. Albert Mohler Jr. (president of Southern Seminary, Louisville, Ky.)

While I agree with many of the conclusions to which Mohler came, I did not appreciate the way in which he expressed himself.

His use of phrases like "Plenty, Indeed," "Enhance, to be sure," and "Some sort of special revelation" demonstrate a sarcasm that has no place in his article.

I was greatly offended by the way that he tried to be insulting with this type of verbiage.

I also found statements like "Of course, the last twenty years of SBC history have demonstrated that Foy Valentine is spectacularly incompetent at knowing what most Baptists believe," and "The moderate Baptist vision of the church always ends up looking like the American Civil Liberties Union at prayer," to be totally repulsive!

He would be better off to leave his anger out of the article.

He does our side of the discussion no good when he speaks out in this un-Christlike manner.

Shame on Morris H. Chapman (president of SBC Executive Committee) for allowing such language to be printed without editing!

Jim Roberts
Ooltewah, Tenn.

EDITORIAL ENCOURAGING

Editor:

I would like to comment on the editorial, "A strange mix, indeed" by editor William H. Perkins Jr. (Dec. 17 issue). I was dumbfounded by what I read. You did such a good job with it.

I made copies and gave them to all of my family members. I also read it to our children. What a testament to the necessity of abstaining from alcoholic beverages all of the time.

As a wife and mother I am on call 24 hours a day. Which of those 24 hours can I afford to be in an intoxicated condition?

Thanks so much for that eye-opening article. I was convicted even further to abstain from all alcoholic beverages all of the time, and encouraged to know that I am doing the right thing.

Diana McDaniel
Senatobia

of Michigan is looking for a Language Ministry Leader with responsibility for Language Church Planting and Leadership Development.

The position opens February 15, 1999. For more information you may contact Dr. Peter Kendrick, Cooperative Missions Ministries, Baptist State Convention of Michigan, 15635 W. Twelve Mile Road, Southfield, Michigan 48076-3091; phone: (248) 557-420; fax: (248) 557-7667; email: cmm_bscm@compuserve.com.

Peter Kendrick
Southfield, MI

JOINT HEIRS

Editor:

In living the Christian life, all of us have those mountain-top experiences that we wish would last forever.

Unfortunately we must also go through those deep valleys, where sometimes we get downhearted.

This life that we live on this earth can get the best of us sometimes; and most of us stay in the deep valleys a lot longer than we should.

I have found that when I start to go through a deep valley, I ask myself "Who am I in Jesus Christ?"

Then, I remember Rom. 8:16-17 (KJV):

"The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God: And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together."

Joint heir means that what one child gets, the other child also gets, and what did Jesus Christ pray in the garden of Gethsemane (John 17:5)?

"And now, O Father, glorify thou me with thine own self with the glory which I had with thee before the world was."

Yes, one day we shall receive the same glory that Jesus Christ has, because we are joint heirs with Christ.

Now, after those thoughts you and I can go through those deep valleys knowing that our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ is always with us. (Matthew 28:20 KJV):

"...And, Lo, I am with you always, ..."

Ricky S. Kahler
Gulfport



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Unsigned letters will not be printed. No multi-copy or form letters will be used.

Each correspondent must include an address and telephone number for verification. In special instances, name may be withheld at writer's request and editor's discretion.

Please include the name of cooperating Mississippi Baptist church where correspondent is a member. (Mississippi Baptists' letters will receive priority when space is limited.)

Letters must be limited to 250 words. All correspondence is subject to editing.

Correspondents should refrain from personal attacks. The opinions expressed in letters to the editor do not necessarily reflect the views of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

No more than one letter from any individual will be printed during a three-month period.

When in the judgement of the editor a given issue has received sufficient attention, correspondence dealing with it will no longer be published and a notice will be printed to that effect.

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MINISTER SOUGHT

Editor:

The Baptist State Convention

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LifeAnswers

Ron Mumbower, Ph.D.
Minister of Counseling
First Church, Jackson

I think the time has come to talk with my son about masturbation. How can we discuss this without embarrassing both of us?

Though rarely discussed in open conversation, masturbation is a fact of life and you should not feel embarrassed to bring this up with him. Given all the sexual input he receives from our culture, he probably knows a lot more than you did at his age. God created genitalia as a way to bring physical pleasure to his highest creation, and he also created a system of marriage between one man and one woman for life as the means by which we experience that pleasure. As children naturally come into contact with their bodies, however, they discover the pleasurable sensations of masturbation. It is not God's best for your son, but it does happen. Begin the discussion by helping him understand the urges and impulses he will encounter as he develops sexually. Explain how semen builds up in his body and how it is released. Discuss what is normal about this process. Address any feelings of guilt he may have about this matter. Teach your son by example to focus on important things — a thought life and physical exis-

tence that centers on honoring God, and how he can ask forgiveness from a loving Heavenly Father when he fails. Finally, don't blow this out of proportion. You're going to have to walk with him through some really big sexual issues in the near future, so begin now to build a trusting relationship in which he feels he can come to you for answers.

The woman in the cubicle next to me at the office talks so loudly that I cannot concentrate on my work or hear my telephone conversations. I have discussed this problem with her, but that hasn't done any good.

At this point, you should probably bring the problem to the attention of your supervisor. Possibly she could be moved to a location where she is not such a distraction. Possibly you could move to another cubicle. There are noise-canceling sound machines available, and maybe a simple radio playing soothing music could help your concentration. Don't lose the initiative to find a solution to this problem. No one likes a chronic complainer — even if the complaint is legitimate — so hang in there and keep trying.

Send your counseling questions to LifeAnswers c/o The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Please be brief. Name is not required. Remember: in time of crisis, your pastor can make recommendations on your counseling needs.

FAITH Sunday School Evangelism Training Clinic



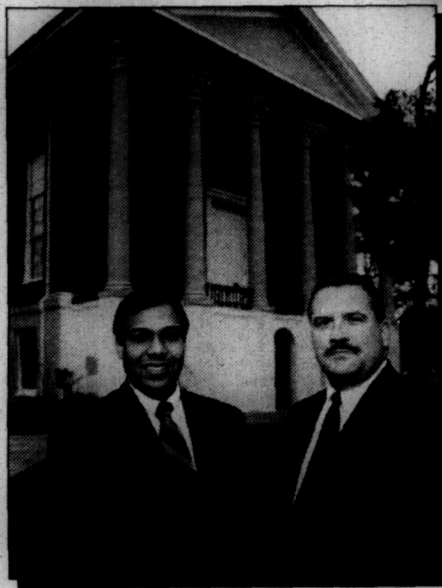
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The FAITH Sunday School Evangelism Strategy is a cooperative evangelistic venture of the North American Mission Board and LifeWay Christian Resources.

BAPTIST COLLEGE NEWS



Parke, Mahaffey

Several new academic professors have joined the faculty at Mississippi College (MC). Joining the Department of Christian Studies and Philosophy are Ivan David Parke and Edward L. Mahaffey. Parke, a graduate of Baylor University and New Orleans Seminary, will serve as assistant professor. Mahaffey, who will also serve as an assistant professor, is a graduate of MC and New Orleans Seminary. He has served as pastor to Country Woods Church, Jackson, for five years. Mahaffey is currently the Metro Baptist Association moderator. James M.

Meaders, Dana Roppolo Rice, and Carol Joy Sparkman are new faculty members in the Department of Music. Meaders is a graduate of MC and Southern Seminary. As assistant professor at MC he will conduct the Chorale Singers, the Concert Singers, and teach applied voice and conducting. Rice is a graduate of Baylor University, Florida State University, and is currently completing her doctorate at the University of Southern Mississippi. She will serve as director of the opera theater productions and teach applied voice. Sparkman is a graduate of MC. As an instructor, she will teach language diction and conduct the MC Concert Singers, direct the

Naturals, and serve as staff accompanist and opera coach. Sparkman is church pianist at Parkway Church, Clinton.

The Office of Continuing Education at MC is offering a course to assist individuals who are preparing to take the Graduate Record Exam. (GRE). The course is scheduled to begin Feb. 16 and conclude on Feb. 27. For more information, call (601) 925-3264.



Sparkman, Meaders, Rice

The MC Department of Music will present a concert featuring the songs of James Sclater on Feb. 9 at 8:15 p.m. in Aven Hall. He has been a member of the MC faculty since 1970. The program will also include a composition "Beyond the Rainbow" with text by Ovid Vickers, a Mississippi poet. Vickers will discuss his collection of poems that the song group being performed is based on.

Artist Mark Millet of Jackson will display a retrospective collection of his work at MC in the Samuel Marshall Gore Gallery of Aven Hall Jan. 15-Feb. 24. The collection will feature 25 of Millet's limited edition paintings of Mississippi landmarks and scenes. The Gore Gallery is opened Mon.-Fri., 8 a.m.-2 p.m. An open reception in honor of Millet will be held on Jan. 22 in the Gore Gallery from 5:30 p.m.-7:30 p.m.

Revivals

Puckett (Rankin): Feb. 7-10; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; regular services on Sunday; Lannie Wilbourn, Brandon, evangelist; Jasper Butler, music.

Terry McDonald Jumper from Lumberton has been named as the new director of New Orleans Seminary's (NOBTS) extension center located in Graceville, Fla. Jumper is a graduate of Mississippi College and completed additional studies at NOBTS. Jumper may be contacted at (850) 263-8267.



Jumper

Matthew A. Brown (right) received his ordination certificate from Trinity Church, Fulton. Brown is pictured with Kenny Digby, who offered the ordination charge. Brown began his pastorate at First Church, Biggersville.



Digby, Brown



Pleasant Grove Church, Chickasaw Association, ordained Charlie Fitts to the gospel ministry on Nov. 8. Pictured (from left) are Jackie Fitts, Fitts, and Jeff Gilder, pastor.

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JUST FOR THE RECORD



Meadowood Church, Amory

Meadowood Church, Amory, held ground breaking services for preschool, children, and youth building. Lloyd Sweatt is pastor. Pictured are members of Meadowood Church.

Larry Hendricks, mission-

ary, will be the special speaker at Terry Road Church, Jackson, on Jan. 31 at 11 a.m. Hendricks has served 13 years in Costa Rica, Central America, working in general evangelism. A covered dish luncheon will be served at noon.



Youth on Mission of Cato Church, Mendenhall, recently joined with a Jackson-area men's shelter for a ministry opportunity. Youth planned, helped prepare, and delivered a brown bag meal to residents of the home. In addition, youth members led the men in a time of devotion, prayer, and praise songs. Lowell Ingram is pastor. Pictured (from left) are Stephanie Cashion, Dennis Jones, Suzanne Love, Joseph Ingram, Tamra Cashion, Jason Ainsworth, Ashley Miller, and Joel Ingram. Not pictured: Brittany Ainsworth, assistant in the meal preparation.

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FERRIDAY- First Church: full-time minister of education and youth; send resumes to: First Baptist Church, Attn: Search Committee, P.O. Box 386, Ferriday, LA 71334.

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Fifth Sunday Gospel Singing will be held at New Hope Church, Fulton, on Jan. 31. Note burning services for the new sanctuary will also be held during morning services.

The new sanctuary was completed in the spring of 1995. A fellowship meal will be served at noon followed with The Masters Quartet at 1 p.m. Mike Bridges is pastor.



Marion Association ground breaking

Marion Association held ground breaking services for a new office and Baptist Conference Center on Dec. 13. The building will be located at 1128 Highway 98, Columbia. Marion Association, composed of 22 churches, is part of the Tri-County Missions Program that includes Lawrence and Walthall associations. There are 57 churches in the Tri-County Missions program. Building committee members (pictured, first row) are Roy Wascomb, East Columbia; Betty Breland,

Cedar Grove; Buford Cooper, Pine Burr; Tony Morris, Improve; Charlene Buckley, Bunker Hill; Sidney Burch, Springs Cottage; and Archie Herrin, director of missions for Lawrence, Marion, and Walthall associations; (second row) Baxter White Jr., First, Columbia; Bill Davis, Holly Springs; Bo Prine, North Columbia; Keith Armstrong, First, Foxworth; and Pete Robins, First, Columbia. Not pictured are Wallace Conerly, Goss; and Jimmy Thomas, New Hope.

STAFF CHANGES

Jon W. Nichols has joined the staff of Paul Truitt Memorial Church, Pearl, as pastor. A native of Meridian, Nichols is a graduate of New Orleans Seminary. He previously pastored in Long Beach.



Nichols

North Winona Church, Winona, has called Rickey L. Burton as pastor effective Jan. 1. A native of Wichita Falls, Texas, Burton received his education at Wayland Baptist University and Southwestern Seminary. His previous place of service was Mt. Zion Church, Independence.

Ramah Church, McCall Creek, has called Trent Bilbo as pastor effective Nov. 8. He is currently attending New Orleans Seminary. He was ordained to the ministry Jan. 10. Bilbo previously served as interim pastor of Crystal Springs Bible Church.

Mike Carroll, a native of Columbus, was recently called as pastor of Huntsville Park Church, Huntsville, Ala. His home church is East End Church in Columbus. A graduate of Clarke College, Carroll served nine years as a minister of youth in Mississippi.

MS POSITIONS AVAILABLE

PIANIST: Send resume to Kreole Avenue Baptist Church, 4124 Kreole Ave., Moss Point, MS 39563 or call 228-475-1306.

THE JASPER COUNTY MS Baptist Association is in great need of a part-time director of missions. Persons interested in serving the Lord in this capacity may send resumes to Rev. William Spencer, PO Box 16, Hickory, MS 39332; or phone 601-646-9494 after 4 p.m. Deadline for receiving applications is February 11.

SEEKING PASTOR, seminary degree preferred. Send resume to Brookway Baptist Church, 300 Hartman Street, Brookhaven, MS 39601.

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4. By faith, I invite Jesus Christ into my life. From this time on, I want to live in a loving relationship with him. *(I receive Christ as my Savior and Lord.)*

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If you make a decision for Jesus Christ today, contact a local Baptist church for spiritual guidance.

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FAITH testimonials reflecting good results

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — Two 12-year-old girls in Alabama used it to lead nine people to faith in Christ. A Houston church used it to increase its Sunday School attendance by more than 200.

A North Carolina college student who had never effectively shared his faith used it to win 20 people to Christ during a spring break "beach reach" in Florida.

A California woman used it on four visits and led four people to Christ.

A small Florida church used it to lead nine people to Christ and added 57 new members to its Sunday School rolls.

So, what is "it"?

It's FAITH, a strategy launched in 1998 by LifeWay Christian Resources and the North American Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention which ties evangelism, ministry, and assimilation to a church's ongoing Sunday School ministry.

Participating churches must have the support and involvement of their pastors, attend a four-day training clinic, and hold a 16-week semester of FAITH training in their church.

"God is doing something wonderful, something amazing through this initiative," Jay Johnston, director of the FAITH

Sunday School ministry department at LifeWay, said.

"He is raising up one of the greatest army of volunteers the world has ever seen through an organization called the Sunday School. I believe that army is going to touch lives, lead thousands to faith in Christ and thousands of others to know him better than they've ever known him before."

The initiative got its start in January 1998 at a training clinic at First Church, Daytona Beach, Fla. Leaders from 28 Southern Baptist churches participated.

After returning home, members of these churches made 26,823 home visits in the remaining months of 1998, sharing the FAITH gospel outline more than 6,000 times and leading 1,510 people to Christ.

In turn, these churches hosted training clinics for churches in their region. Leaders from 1,564 churches attended FAITH training clinics in 1998 and approximately 80 such training events are scheduled across the country in 1999.

Reports received by LifeWay include:

♦ Jan Williams, an adult Sunday School class teacher at Immanuel Church, Highland, Calif. She led four people to Christ during her first four FAITH visits.

"I could never have done this without the tools of FAITH and a dedicated pastor," Williams said. "This is as good as it gets until Jesus comes."

♦ Sal Sberna, pastor of Metropolitan Church, Houston, which has increased its weekly Sunday School attendance by 200 through professions of faith and ministry visits related to the FAITH initiative.

♦ Vaughn Forest Church, Montgomery, Ala., which has baptized more than 80 people since it began implementing the FAITH strategy.

Lifeway's FAITH point man Johnston said interest in FAITH has "mushroomed" faster than LifeWay officials had expected or prepared for, but added, "It's a wonderful problem to have."

He suggested church leaders use the following contacts for more information:

For general information about FAITH, call toll-free (877) 324-8498.

To register for a FAITH training clinic, call (800) 254-2022. For information about FAITH clinics, call Larry Ware at (615) 251-2183, or contact him via email at lware@lifeway.com.

FAITH training resources are distributed to church leaders and pastors who attend FAITH training clinics. Churches with pastors who have attended one of these training events may also order FAITH resources, toll-free, via LifeWay's Customer Service Center, (800) 458-2772. For questions about FAITH resources, call Doug Merritt at (615) 251-3619, or contact him via email at dmerritt@lifeway.com.



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LIFE AND WORK

Offering hope to homosexuals

Lev. 18:22; Rom. 1:24-28; 1 Cor. 6:9-11, 18-20

By Hugh Plunkett

Homosexuals have become a powerful force in American society. What once was a taboo subject has now become a frequent topic in television shows and movies, and an outspoken force in political decisions. Encouraging others to come out of the closet, the homosexual lobby is urging everyone to accept homosexuality as a valid lifestyle. What should our attitude be about homosexuality and homosexuals?

The answer to this question lies in a question. Has God's attitude toward homosexuality and homosexuals changed? The biblical truth is God condemns homosexuality but offers hope of a new life

through faith in Jesus Christ.

Is homosexuality an acceptable lifestyle? (Lev. 18:22; Rom. 1:24-28). God's Word teaches that practicing homosexuality is a detestable product of unchecked sinful desires. Gen. 18-19 tells us of Lot's sojourn into the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah. He camped outside the gates of the city but gradually moved his tents closer until eventually he was inside the city. God's wrath was against the city, but Abraham, Lot's uncle, pleaded for the city. He asked God to spare the city for the sake of the righteous who were in the city. God relented, saying that he would indeed spare the city if ten righteous men could be



Plunkett

found. The Scriptures say that all the men from the city, young and old, came to Lot's house to take the visitors (angels who had come to warn Lot of the city's impending doom), and have sex with them. God declared these men to be unrighteous and the city was destroyed. Their lifestyle was not acceptable to God then and it is not acceptable to God now.

Is homosexuality natural? (Rom. 1: 26-28). God created us so that natural sexual relations are between a man and a woman, male and female. Sexual relations with same-sex partners are unnatural and depraved. When Adam and Eve were created, they were to "be fruitful and multiply; to fill the earth and subdue it." (Gen. 1:28a) When Noah built the ark, he was instructed by God to "enter the ark with his wife, his sons, and their wives and two of all living creatures, male and

female to keep them alive with him." (Gen. 6:18-19) God did this for the perpetuation of the species, both human and animal. To do otherwise would have meant the demise of mankind and the creatures inhabiting the earth. People need to understand that homosexuality is an unnatural, perverse lifestyle that has profound destructive spiritual, psychological, and social consequences.

Do homosexuals have a way out? (1 Cor 6:9-11). Paul reminded the Corinthians that an ungodly lifestyle is incompatible with the kingdom of God. Some of the Corinthian believers previously had practiced homosexuality, but they had been forgiven, cleansed, and sanctified in Jesus Christ. It has been said time and time again that God hates sin but loves the sinner. Jesus loved all sinners so much that he willingly gave himself to die for all of us. It is important that we remember that God did not dif-

ferentiate between sins. What separates us from God? Sin! As bad as murder is, God can forgive it. Abortion, adultery, lying, stealing — any sin you name is forgivable (excluding the blasphemy of the Holy Spirit). People need to know that homosexuals can be forgiven, cleansed, and delivered from a lifestyle of homosexuality through a personal relationship with Jesus Christ.

Societies may change and views on subjects may be altered, but the Holy, Righteous and Omnipotent God of Heaven and Earth cannot and will not tolerate sin in any form or fashion. The Bible still speaks with authority on this subject. God hates sin. He loves sinners. He provided a way to him through his Son, Jesus. The Word of God will stand when mankind vanishes from this earth. God's love never changes and his love never fails.

Plunkett is minister of music and adults at Clarksdale Church.

EXPLORE THE BIBLE

What's in it for me?

Manipulation

Mark 9:30-10:52

By Dee McDermitt

In this text, we see the disciples display the attitude of selfish ambition, which is common to us all at one time or another. Selfishness is an integral part of this sinful nature we inherited at birth. When we become a Christian, no one pushes the "clear" button. Even though we are a new creation, we still struggle with these old attitudes until we recognize them and allow them to be brought under the lordship of Jesus. Jesus' disciples were no different. Prior to going up to Jerusalem, Jesus had recently completed a time of private

intensive teaching with them while on a trip through Galilee. After this time of teaching, they traveled to Judea where he again taught the multitudes, blessed the little children, and counseled a rich young ruler. His time of ministry was nearing the end and he knew he must go up to Jerusalem to endure what awaited him there.

The road ahead (vv. 32b-34). Jesus had twice before explained to the disciples what he must suffer in Jerusalem. While he was walking ahead of them on the road, the disciples were amazed and afraid. He, however, was determined and



McDermitt

his heart was set toward what he must shortly endure. We might say it was "written all over him." The disciples had seen him in many situations, but I am convinced they had never seen him as passionate about anything as this. As he took them aside, he told them for the third time that "we are going to Jerusalem" (they will be with him) but he will be betrayed, condemned to death and delivered to the Gentiles to suffer. The disciples heard the prediction again, but they still didn't really understand.

A selfish request (vv. 35-40). Though the disciples didn't understand about the prediction, they must have sensed that the establishment of his kingdom was near. Not yet understanding that his kingdom was a spiritual one, not earthly, James and John decide to get in on the ground floor. They

approach him with a request and, patiently, he allows them to display their lack of spiritual depth by disclosing their wishes. They had no desire to be near Jesus when his kingdom was manifested, only to have the highest offices in this new kingdom. Ambition was the fire that fueled their desire, not loyalty. Have you felt that same fire burn in your heart? I have. But Jesus is patient with me as he was with the disciples. He answered their question with a question. When he refers to the cup, he was referring to the suffering he must endure. They were quick to answer that they were able; he answers they they would indeed drink of that cup and be baptized with that baptism; the servant must be like the Master in suffering, too. It is interesting to note that at the moment of his triumph the ones that were on his right and his left were two thieves who were being crucified along with him.

This showed plainly what it meant to share in his cup and his baptism.

The standard of greatness (vv. 42-45). When the other ten disciples heard of the request, they were indignant, a sure sign of their own spiritual shallowness. Jesus took them aside at once and explained to them the true nature of Christian leadership which is humble service. As an example he used the rulers of the Gentiles and how the great ones exercise authority over them. In the Christian world, that picture is flip-flopped. Whoever will be great must be a servant. Jesus reminded them that he, himself, set the example here when he stooped down and emptied himself for us in that he came not to be served, but to serve and give his life for many.

McDermitt is a member of Rawls Springs Church, Hattiesburg.

FAMILY BIBLE SERIES

Declare allegiance

Acts 17:22-34

By Carl M. White

They called Paul a "babbler," and his message "strange" (v. 18). This was because in the midst of the greatest center for religious thinking in the world, Paul proclaimed Christ Jesus resurrected.

Athenians spent a tremendous amount of time and effort listening to and debating philosophy and religion. The Areopagus was a series of buildings in Athens where the great thinkers of the day debated. It included the Bema, the Parthenon, the Temple to Athena, and the Epicurean Temple, along with thousands of idols. They were very religious, very curious, and very

lost. Paul, entering into this lion's den of philosophy and religion, begins with a compliment but proceeds quickly to the heart of the Gospel.

A commendation (vv. 22-23). Paul was not so foolish as to walk into the Areopagus and start off by condemning their beliefs. Instead, he commended their interest in things spiritual. We would do well to emulate the Apostle today, for we too are living in a time filled with spiritual interest. While people are not coming to church in droves, they do express an interest in things other-worldly, whether it be the Word of God or UFOs.



White

Noting their interest in things religious, Paul observed their altar to the "unknown God." Like many secular people today, the Athenians were hedging their bets. Just in case they missed a God somewhere, they added one more anonymous altar. This was just the opening Paul needed as an opportunity to preach the Gospel of Jesus Christ. He said, "What you worship in ignorance, this I proclaim to you."

A clarification (vv. 24-28). The Athenians, like most ancient people, worshiped idols. When the Lord God gave Moses the 10 Commandments, idolatry was forbidden. He intended the children of Israel to be distinct from the rest of the world. The reasons for this distinction are three-fold. First, there was only one true God. Idolatry was characteristic of the belief in a pantheon of deities. Second, idols

could be manipulated, even destroyed. It made each deity small and weak. Third, idols were often territorial and national. Each kingdom had its own gods. Verses 24-26 rebuke each of these ideas, leaving instead an understanding that there is but one God, Creator of all, the One in whom each and every being finds its origins. Verse 28 is a high statement of the sovereignty of God. "For in Him we live and move and exist."

A correction (vv. 29-31). Having clarified the error of idolatry, Paul now corrects their thinking. Since the divine nature cannot be captured by the artistic efforts of humanity in gold, silver, or stone, God has sent his Son, who was resurrected from the dead. As a result of what God has done, they all should repent of their sins. A day of judgment is coming, and the resurrection is the proof, Paul says.

A popular argument against Christianity is that there is lack

of evidence to prove God's existence. Some claim they would believe if they could only find proof. It is funny how people will accept as logical a world view that says the complexity and beauty of human life has no logic to it at all and is instead an accident, then reject as illogical a Christian world view that says the complexity and beauty of life is very logical indeed because it is rooted in a loving Creator. The lack of evidence is not the problem — it is the suppression of evidence. (Rom. 1:18) God has made himself known in nature, and ultimately in Jesus Christ.

A confrontation (vv. 32-34). Paul confronts the Athenians with the claims of the Gospel and some believe. We, too, are confronted with the claim of truth, that God was in Christ Jesus reconciling the world unto himself. The proof is in the experience of Christ through repentance.

White is a member of First Church, Clinton.



Y2K fear feeding on itself, mag editor says

RAYMORE, Mo. (BP) — "The problem is not Y2K — the problem is the fear of Y2K," said Christian Computing magazine editor Steve Hewitt. "Fear-based Y2K issues could prove to be much worse than any technology-based problem."

Hewitt, of Raymore, Mo., and a former Missouri Baptist pastor, said he is practically a lone voice in trying to quell the rising panic surrounding Y2K. He addressed Missouri Baptist Convention staff Jan. 6 at the Baptist Building in Jefferson City.

Y2K is a computer programming problem centered around the use of two digits to represent a year. Predictions are that many computers and computer chips will be confused when the date rolls over to Jan. 1, 2000. Besides computer software, "embedded chips" are in everything from coffeemakers to cars.

How bad can it be? Hewitt said there are two main — and opposite — perspectives:

- A bump in the road. "This is where I stand," he said. "It will be a personal inconvenience, almost nonexistent." There is the possibility of some economic impact. "This will happen because of the panic. The greatest danger is overreaction."

- Every aspect of society affected. "This includes utilities, food, banks, communications, and even national security."

Why such a variety of opinions? Hewitt cited various factors.

- The information age. Hewitt said the Internet has given anyone and everyone a forum for expressing their views. "Seventy-seven percent of print journalists get their news off the Internet; they're just reporting each others' news."

- Fast-moving technology. "I won't do a book on Y2K because it just moves too fast," Hewitt said. "The information would be old by the time it hit the shelf."

- Sensational reports. "There are lots of books and videos out on this subject — people want to sell their stuff. There's a lot of money being made with Y2K."

Hewitt noted national Christian leaders — "based on poor theology" — have been major players in sensationalizing Y2K. "Christians are leading the panic attack in America," he said. "We have a hierarchy of churchless pastors that are saying Y2K is the judgment of God."

- Dated material is fueling Y2K fears. Hewitt cited a claim that the president of General Motors had said no cars could be made for an entire year after Y2K.

"I asked what the source was, and I was told it was a 198 issue of Fortune maga-

zine. I checked it out, and no such thing was said by the GM president or anyone else. The real quotation was made back in 1996 that Y2K could cause 'catastrophic problems' if not solved in time." That quotation had been used in the 1998 article, but it had become outdated.

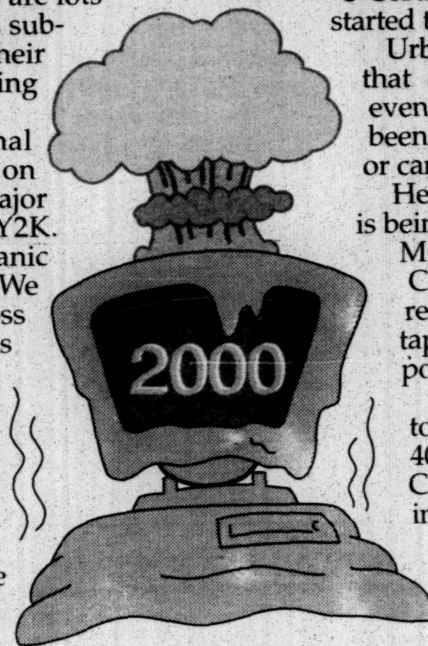
- Questionable sources. Too many people are citing stories or quotations that cannot be verified.

- Urban legends. "This is what started the panic," he said.

Urban legends are stories that continue to be spread, even though they either have been determined to be false, or can in no way be verified.

Hewitt's Y2K presentation is being made available by the Missouri Baptist Convention on a cost-recovery basis. Audio tapes are \$2; videos are \$5, postage included.

Orders can be directed to MBC Media Services, 400 E. High St., Jefferson City, MO 65101; or by calling Ken Satterfield at (573) 635-7931, ext. 354, or 1-800-736-6227; or e-mail ksatterfield@mobaptist.org.



Teams attend church before big Fiesta Bowl game

PHOENIX, Ariz. (BP) — How did the two Fiesta Bowl coaches end up at North Phoenix Church (NPBC) the day before competing for the national college football championship?

It all began when Dan Yeary served as pastor of University Church in Coral Gables, Fla., a number of years ago. He and Florida State University (FSU) head coach Bobby Bowden were introduced by mutual friends at First Church, Tallahassee, and each year the Seminoles played in the Orange Bowl, Yeary invited Bowden to speak at University Church.

After Yeary became pastor of North Phoenix in 1993, he wrote Bowden at the beginning of each season, saying, "Since you'll be playing in the Fiesta Bowl this year, put North Phoenix on your calendar and plan to give your testimony in church."

This year, Bowden wrote back saying, "This year it's going to be a long shot since the Fiesta Bowl is the championship game!" As soon as FSU was selected to play in the Fiesta Bowl, Yeary was on the phone.

Larry Fields, pastor of the Central Church in the Knoxville, Tenn., is the chaplain of the University of Tennessee (UT) Volunteer team. He and Yeary are friends.

Fields called to inquire about the possibility of the team attending worship at North Phoenix Church.

UT head coach Phil Fulmer makes a habit of taking bowl teams to church, and at Yeary's request, agreed to join Bowden in a Sunday testimony.

That's how the coaches of the rival college championship football teams both attended North Phoenix the day before the big game.

"Both coaches prioritized their relationship with God, and there was a clear presentation of the gospel," Yeary said. In fact, there were numerous spiritual decisions as a result of

the coaches' testimonies and the pastor's message on building championship families.

"It's nice to steal the thunder from the secular press," Yeary said. He has counted mentions and footage on ESPN, CBS and in USA Today.

After all, Bowden said, "Football is not my number one priority in life. I'm not cutting

my wrists over football. Football is a way that God has given me to make a living and support my family and to witness to young men."

Yeary asked Fulmer what he would tell America's youth if he had one shot at helping them establish a new direction. Without hesitation he responded, "Get closer to the Lord."

Bibliocipher

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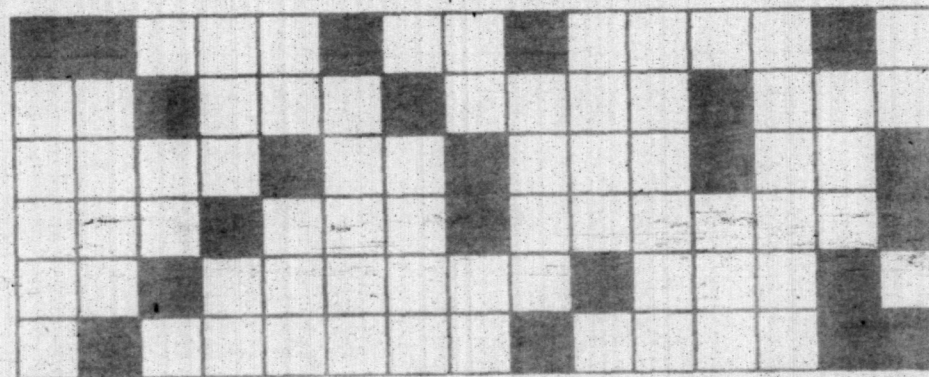
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Clue: Z=1.

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: John Eight: Twenty Four.

Jesus' Second Coming

In Matthew 24 Jesus told his disciples something about the time of his return. Solve the puzzle to find out what he said.



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N O T H T H E E A A N U N S M
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Place each column of letters in the same order in the spaces above it. A black square marks the end of a word.